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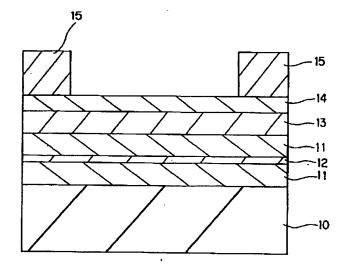
#### (54) 【発明の名称】 磁気抵抗効果素子

#### (57) 【要約】

【課題】本発明は、軟磁気特性が良好で抵抗変化率△R / Rが充分なスピンバルブ構造の膜または人工格子膜を有し、高感度の磁気ヘッドに適用が可能である磁気抵抗効果素子を提供することを目的とする。

識別記号

【解決手段】基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、少なくとも一方の強磁性膜はCo, Fe, およびNiからなる群より選ばれた少なくとも2種の元素を主成分とし、Pd, Al, Cu, Ta, In, B, Nb, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au, およびAgからなる群より選ばれた少なくとも一つの元素が添加含有された組成を有することを特徴としている。



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#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、少なくとも一方の強磁性膜はCo, Fe, およびNiからなる群より選ばれた少なくとも2種の元素を主成分とし、Pd, Al, Cu, Ta, In, B, Nb, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au, およびAgからなる群より選ばれた少なくとも一つの元素が添加含有された組成を有することを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、磁気ヘッド等に用いられる磁気抵抗効果素子に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】以前より、磁気記録媒体に記録された情報を読み出す場合は、コイルを有する読取り用の磁気へッドを記録媒体に対して相対的に移動させて、その時に発生する電磁誘導でコイルに誘起される電圧を検出する方法が一般的である。また、情報を読み出す場合に磁気抵抗効果型へッドを用いることも知られている[IEEE MA G-7, 150 (1971)]。この磁気抵抗効果型へッドは、ある種の強磁性体の電気抵抗が外部磁界の強さに応じて変化するという現象を利用したものであり、磁気記録媒体用の高感度へッドとして知られている。近年、磁気記録媒体の小型化・大容量化が進められ、情報読み取り時の読取り用磁気へッドと磁気記録媒体との相対速度が小さくなってきているので、小さい相対速度であっても大きな出力が取り出せる磁気抵抗効果型へッドへの期待が高まっている。

【0003】従来、磁気抵抗効果型ヘッドにおいて外部 磁界を感知して抵抗が変化する部分(以下、MRエレメントと呼ぶ)には、NiFe合金(以下、パーマロイと 省略する)が使用されている。パーマロイは、良好な軟 磁気特性を有するものでも磁気抵抗変化率が最大で3%程度であり、小型化・大容量化された磁気記録媒体用のMRエレメントに用いる場合には磁気抵抗変化率が不充分である。このため、MRエレメント材料として、より高感度な磁気抵抗変化を示すものが望まれている。

【0004】近年、Fe/CrやCo/Cuのように、強磁性膜と非磁性膜をある条件で交互に積層してなる多層積層膜、いわゆる人工格子膜には、隣接する強磁性膜間の反強磁性的結合を利用して巨大な磁気抵抗変化が現れることが確認されており、最大で100%を超える大きな磁気抵抗変化率を示すものも報告されている [Phys. Rev. Lett., Vol. 64, 2304 (1990)]。

【0005】一方、強磁性膜が反強磁性結合しない場合でも、隣接する強磁性膜間の反強磁性的結合を用いずに別の手段で非磁性膜を挟んだ2つの強磁性膜の一方に交

換バイアスを及ぼし磁化を固定しておき、もう一方の強磁性膜が外部磁界により磁化反転することにより、非磁性膜を挟んで互いに反平行な状態を作り出し、大きな磁気抵抗変化を実現した例も報告されている。このタイプをここではスピンバルブ構造と呼ぶ [Phys. Rev. B., Vol. 45806 (1992)] [J. Appl. Phys., Vol. 69, 4774 (1991)]。

【0006】人工格子膜、スピンバルブ構造の膜のいずれも、強磁性膜の種類によって、積層膜の抵抗変化特性および磁気特性はかなり異なる。たとえば、スピンバルブ構造でCoを用いた場合、例えばCo/Cu/Co/FeMnでは、8%の大きな抵抗変化率を生じるが、保磁力が約20エルステッドと高く、軟磁気特性が良好でない。逆に、パーマロイを用いた場合、例えばNiFe/Cu/NiFe/FeMnでは、保磁力が1エルステッド以下の良好な値が報告されているが、抵抗変化率は4%程度と大きくはない[J. Al. Phys., Vol. 69, 4774(1991)]。このように、積層膜の軟磁気特性は良好であるが、抵抗変化率が低下する。したがって、軟磁気特性および抵抗変化率の両方を満たす積層膜の構成元素および膜構造がまだ報告されていない。

【0007】また、2つのタイプの膜には、以下の問題点がある。

【0008】人工格子膜では、磁界レンジを無視した抵抗変化率  $\Delta$  R/Rは、スピンバルブ型に比べて大きいが、反強磁性結合が大きいために飽和磁界Hsが大きく軟磁性に難があり、さらにこのRKKY的な反強磁性結合は界面構造に敏感であるので、安定した成膜が困難であり、また、経時変化を生じ易い。

【0009】スピンバルブ構造の膜では、強磁性膜にNiFe膜を用いると良好な軟磁気特性が得られるが、強磁性膜と非磁性膜の界面が2つなのでΔR/Rは人工格子膜に比べて小さい。この界面の数を増やすために強磁性膜、非磁性膜、反強磁性膜を繰り返して積層してなる多層積層膜を構成しても、この積層膜中に抵抗の高い反強磁性膜が存在することになるのでスピン依存散乱が抑制され、結局ΔR/Rの増加は期待できない。

【0010】また、磁気ヘッドに適する強磁性膜の困難軸方向に信号磁界を加えた場合、片側のみの強磁性膜で磁化が回転するので、図83に示すように、信号磁界により反強磁性膜1上の強磁性膜2と、非磁性膜3上の強磁性膜4の磁化のなす角度を約90°までしか変えられない。なお、容易軸方向では180°までの角度変化が生じる。その結果、ΔR/Rは容易軸方向の約半分に減少する。ここで、たとえ反強磁性膜1上の強磁性膜2の交換バイアス磁界を何らかの方法で弱くして両方の強磁性膜2、4の磁化回転を利用できるようにした場合、非磁性膜3の膜厚を薄くして抵抗変化率の増大を目指すと、2つの強磁性膜間に強磁性的な結合が働くために、信号磁界0の状態では強磁性膜間の磁化は同方向を向く。その結果、信号磁界により磁化回転しても2つの強

磁性膜間での磁化の角度変化が僅かとなり抵抗変化が僅かになる。

【0011】さらに、この非磁性膜の膜厚を薄くした場合に働く2つの強磁性膜間の強磁性的な結合は、強磁性膜の透磁率を劣化させるという問題もある。また、軟磁気特性の良好なNiFe膜では、通常の異方性磁気抵抗効果があるが、センス電流を信号磁界と直交する方向に流す方式では、図84に示すように、信号磁界0で2つの強磁性膜の磁化が同方向に揃った状態で、信号磁界による異方性磁気抵抗効果とスピン依存散乱による抵抗変化が互いに打ち消し合ってしまう。

#### [0012]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】人工格子膜とスピンバルブ構造の膜の共通の問題としては、第1に、磁気ヘッドにおいて高感度を得るためには、供給する電流をできる限り増加させる必要があるが、この場合両者の膜とも、一部の強磁性膜がこの電流が作る磁界により磁化の方向が乱されて、磁界に対する高感度な抵抗変化が妨げられることである。具体的には、積層膜の最上層、最下層近傍では、電流磁界が強く、磁化が電流磁界方向を向き易い。

【0013】第2に、バルクハウゼンノイズ抑制や動作 点バイアス等の磁気ヘッドに適用する上で解決すべき重 要な問題がある。

【0014】以上のように、スピン依存散乱を利用した 人工格子膜やスピンバルブ構造の膜を有する磁気抵抗効 果素子では、高感度化に不可欠な、大電流投入時でも良 好な軟磁気特性を示し、しかも大きい抵抗変化率ΔR/ Rを示すことができないのが現状にある。

【0015】本発明はかかる点に鑑みてなされたものであり、軟磁気特性が良好で抵抗変化率△R/Rが充分なスピンバルブ構造の膜または人工格子膜を有し、高感度の磁気へッドに適用が可能である磁気抵抗効果素子を提供することを目的とする。

#### [0016]

はAg等の非磁性金属やCuPd、CuPt、CuAu、CuNi合金等を挙げることができる。非磁性膜の膜厚は $0.5\sim20$ nmであることが好ましく、 $0.8\sim5$ nmであることが特に好ましい。

#### [0017]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の磁気抵抗効果素子 を具体的に説明する。

【0018】本発明の第1の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、2つの前記強磁性膜が非結合であり、少なくとも一方の強磁性膜はCo, Fe, およびNiからなる群より選ばれた少なくとも1種の元素を主成分とし、かつ、その最密面が膜面垂直方向に配向していることを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0019】第1の発明において、2つの強磁性膜が非結合であるとは、2つの強磁性膜間に反強磁性的交換結合が実質的に存在しないことを意味する。したがって、2つの強磁性膜において、反平行な磁化配列状態を実現する場合は、強磁性膜間の反強磁性的結合とは別の手段が強磁性膜へのバイアス磁界印加手段として形成される。また、最密面配向とは、fcc相の場合には(111)面を意味し、hcp相の場合には(001)面を意味する。

【0020】第1の発明において、前記強磁性膜の最密 面を膜面垂直方向に配向させる方法としては、前記強磁 性膜の材料にPd, Al, Cu, Ta, In, B, N b, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au, およびAgからなる群より選ばれた少なく とも1種の元素を添加する方法(特に、抵抗変化率の低 下がほとんどないPd、Cu、Au、Agの添加が好ま しい)、強磁性膜を形成する基板としてサファイア基板 のC面等を用いる方法、基板と強磁性膜との間にCu, Ni, CuNi, NiFe, Ge, Si, GaAs等の fcc格子を有する材料、NiO等の菱面体格子を有す る材料、Ti,磁性非晶質金属(CoZrNb, CoH fTa等)、および非磁性非晶質材料からなる群より選 ばれたものからなる下地膜を設ける方法、並びにMBE 等の超高真空成膜装置により成膜する方法等が挙げられ る。

【0021】ここで、詳しく前記下地膜の具体例を示すと、例えばCo系強磁性膜において、CogoFelo膜に代表される fcc格子を有する強磁性膜を用いる場合には、Cu-Ge-Zr、Cu-P、Cu-P-Pd、Cu-Pd-Si、Cu-Si-Zr、Cu-Ti、Cu-Sn、Cu-Ti-Zr等に代表されるCu系合金、Au-Dy、Au-Pb-Sb、Au-Pd-Si、Au-Yb等に代表されるAu系合金、Al-Cr、Al-Dy、Al-Ga-Mg、Al-Si等に代表されるAl系合金、Pt系合金、Pd-Zr等に

代表されるPd系合金、Be-Ti、Be-Ti-Z r、Be-Zr等のBe系合金、Ge-Nb、Ge-P d-Se等に代表されるGe系合金、Ag系合金、Rh 系合金、Mn系合金、Ir系合金、Pb系合金等のfc c格子を有する金属系、またはこれらfcc格子を有す る金属を主成分とする合金系、Ge、Si、ダイヤモン ド等のダイヤモンド構造を有する材料、GaAs、Ga -Al-As、Ga-P、In-P等の閃亜鉛鉱型構造 を有する材料等が前記 f c c 格子を有する材料として挙 げられ、これらの中から選ばれた少なくとも1種類を主 成分とする材料、またはそれらに他の元素を添加した材 料等を用いることができる。上記した材料のうち、単元 素金属以外の物質は、それ自身で既に強磁性膜と比較し て十分に比抵抗が高いため、シャント分流分の電流を抑 制する効果を有している。また、単元素金属への他元素 の添加による比抵抗の増加は、様々な組み合わせが存在 するが、Cu-Ni、Cu-Cr、Cu-Zr等に代表 されるCu系合金、Au-Cr、Fe-Mn、Pt-M n、Ni-Mn等の合金がその中の一例として挙げられ

【0022】非磁性非晶質材料としては、非磁性の単元素金属や合金、および非金属を添加物として含むもの等の非磁性金属材料や、水素化Siのような非晶質Si、水素化カーボン、ガラス状炭素、黒鉛状炭素等の非晶質カーボン等の非磁性非金属材料等が挙げられる。

【0023】上述したような下地膜の膜厚は、特に限定 されるものではないが、100mm以下とすることが好ま しい。これは、下地膜の膜厚をあまり厚くしてもそれ以 上の効果が得られないばかりか、逆に素子全体における 下地膜に流れる電流の割合が大きく、結果として抵抗変 化率が小さくなるからである。第1の発明において、下 地膜は強磁性膜の最密面配向を改善する。さらに、上述 したような材料のうち非磁性非晶質材料においては、基 板材料によらずに層状成長させることが可能で安定して 平滑な表面が得られるため、(111)配向の改善に加 えて、その上に形成する強磁性膜の表面平滑性、さらに は非磁性膜との界面の平滑性の向上を図ることができ る。よって、良好な抵抗変化率を安定して得ることが可 能となる。また、第1の発明における下地膜として、非 磁性材料を用いると、その上に形成される強磁性膜に対 して悪影響を及ぼすこともない。

【0024】なお、下地膜を形成する場合、結晶配向性は改善されるが、平滑性が劣化して抵抗変化率が低下する場合がある。そこで、最密面配向を促進させるための前記第1の下地膜の材料として、fcc格子を有する材料や磁性非晶質金属を用いる場合には、Ti、Ta、Zrや非磁性非晶質材料等からなる平滑性を改善するための第2の下地膜を、第1の下地膜と基板との間に配置した2層構造にすることが好ましい。このような構成にすることにより、最密面結晶配向の向上によって得られる

良好な軟磁気特性と高い磁気抵抗変化率とを併せ持つ磁気抵抗効果素子が得られる。また、2層構造において、強磁性膜と同じ結晶系を有し、かつ比抵抗が強磁性膜材料よりも大きい材料からなる第2の下地膜を用いることにより、上記効果に加えて、素子内に流れる電流におけるシャント電流分を少なくすることができる。なお、下地膜を2層以上の積層構造として使用する場合には、積層構造の厚さとして100mmを超えないことが望ましい。

【0025】上述したような下地膜の作製方法としては、13.56M12 または100M12以上の高周波放電を用いた2極スパッタリング法、ECRイオン源やカウフマン型イオン源等の様々なイオン源を用いたイオンビームスパッタリング法、電子ビーム蒸発源やクヌーセンセルを用いた真空蒸着法、熱CVD法、様々なプラズマを用いたCVD法、有機金属を原料とするMOCVD法やMOMBE法等、各種成膜方法を適用することができる。これらの成膜方法に共通することとして、超高真空までの排気や原料ガスの超高純度化を通じて、水および酸素の管理を行うことが重要である。より具体的には、H2OおよびO2の含有量をppm以下に、望ましくはppbオーダーまで低減することが好ましい。

【0027】強磁性膜の結晶配向は、そのX線回折曲線における最密面(例えば fcc (111) 面)反射ピークのロッキングカーブの半値幅が20°未満、特に7°以下であることが好ましい。

【0028】第1の発明において、添加元素の添加含有量は、CoFe合金等を主成分とする強磁性膜の強磁性が室温で損なわれず、かつ、スピン依存散乱を阻害する金属間化合物が生成されない範囲である必要がある。例えば、添加元素がAl、Ga、Inである場合には、含有量が6.5at%未満であることが好ましい。添加元素がNb、Ta、Zr、Hf、B、Mo、Wである場合には含有量が10at%未満であることが好ましい。添加元素がCu、Pd、Au、Ag、Re、Ru、Rh、Irである場合には、含有量は40at%未満であることが好ましい。

【0029】また、基板材料としては、MgO、サファイヤ、ダイヤモンド、グラファイト、シリコン、ゲルマ

二ウム、SiC、BN、SiN、AlN、BeO、GaAs、GaInP、GaAlAs、BP等に代表される単結晶体、およびそれらの多結晶体やそれらを主成分とする焼結体、磁性または非磁性金属の単結晶体、多結晶体、焼結体等が代表例として挙げられるが、強磁性膜の種類およびその下地膜材料に応じて、基板材料を選択する。特に、Co系合金と良好な格子整合を有し、さらに平滑な面が容易に得易い特徴を有するサファイア基板のC面を用いることが好ましい。サファイア基板等の単結晶基板を用いる場合には、強磁性膜の厚さは20m以下にすることが好ましい。これは、強磁性膜の厚さが20mを超えると最密面配向が劣化するからである。

【0030】ここで、最密面配向した上記磁性膜では、磁化方向が最密面面内から僅かに傾くとHcが急増する。したがって基板面にうねりがあると、たとえ最密面配向を実現しても磁化方向が(111)面内から外れる場合があるので、Hcは低下しない恐れがある。このため、基板の表面粗さが5nm未満であることが好ましい。なお、第1の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、上記構成に加えて非磁性膜と強磁性膜を交互に複数回積層したものであってもよい。

【0031】第1の発明において、Co, Fe, および N 1 からなる群より選ばれた少なくとも 1 種の元素を主 成分とする強磁性膜の最緻密面、例えば f c c 相(1 1 1) 面が膜面垂直方向に配向することにより良好な軟磁 気特性が得られる。これは、fcc相(111)面内に おいては、結晶磁気異方性K」に依存した磁化容易軸が 現れないからである。また、強磁性膜を形成する基板の 表面粗さを制御することにより、強磁性膜における磁化 を最密面面内に保存することができ、これにより結晶磁 気異方性に伴う保磁力を低下させることができる。した がって、より良好な軟磁気特性が得られる。また、ロッ キングカーブ半値幅を20°未満、望ましくは7°以下 となるように配向することにより、保磁力(Hc)が1 00A/mまでである良好な軟磁気特性、無配向膜や他 の配向(例えばfcc相(100)配向)を上回る高抵 抗変化率(△R/R)(例えばCoFe膜では△R/R ~10%)、および高い透磁率を共に有する高感度な磁 気抵抗効果素子を得ることができる。

【0032】なお、ここで、積層膜の主結晶配向面の法線が、結晶配向面の揺らぎにより膜面内で成分を持ち、この膜面内成分が異方性を有していたり、結晶性の積層膜に発生する面欠陥の法線が、膜面内への揺らぎを持ち、この揺らぎが膜面内で異方性を有していることがある。このような異方性が強い方向は、膜成長する原子面において強磁性原子と非磁性原子が混在し易い方向である。したがって、この方向、すなわち膜面内成分による異方性が最も大きくなる方向にセンス電流を流すことにより、電子が界面でスピン依存散乱する確率が高くなると考えられる。

【0033】すなわち、積層膜注の強磁性膜の結晶配向面が揺らいだり、面欠陥が導入されて原子配列に乱れが生じることにより、結晶配向面内の原子配列に乱れが生じた場合、その乱れの大きな方向にセンス電流を流すことによって、電子は等価的に多くの界面および強磁性膜を通過することになり、スピン依存散乱される確率が高くなる。このように、センス電流の方向を積層膜の結晶配向面の揺らぎ方向に沿う方向に設定することにより、磁気抵抗効果素子はより大きな抵抗変化率を示す。

【0034】第2の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、少なくとも一方の強磁性膜はCo, Fe, およびNiからなる群より選ばれた少なくとも2種の元素を主成分とし、Pd, Al, Cu, Ta, In, B, Nb, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au, およびAgからなる群より選ばれた少なくとも一つの元素が添加含有された組成を有することを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0035】第2の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、上記構成に加えて非磁性膜と強磁性膜を交互に複数回積層した ものであってもよい。

【0036】第2の発明において、添加元素の添加含有量は、CoFe合金等を主成分とする強磁性膜の強磁性が室温で損なわれず、かつ、スピン依存散乱を阻害する金属間化合物が生成されない範囲である必要がある。例えば、添加元素がAl、Ga、Inである場合には、含有量が6.5at%未満であることが好ましい。添加元素がNb、Ta、Zr、Hf、B、Mo、Wである場合には含有量が10at%未満であることが好ましい。添加元素がCu、Pd、Au、Ag、Re、Ru、Rh、Irである場合には、含有量は40at%未満であることが好ましい。

【0037】第2の発明においては、上述したような添加元素を加えることにより、Hcが100A/mまでである良好な軟磁気特性および5%以上の△R/Rを有する高感度な磁気抵抗効果素子を得ることができる。特に、Al, Ta, Zr, Nb, Hfの添加では、軟磁気特性が著しく改善される。この場合、軟磁気特性が良好になる理由は今のところ明確ではないが、結晶配向の改善によるもの以外に、結晶磁気異方性の低減による効果も含まれていると考えられる。さらに、Pd, Cu, Ag, Auでは、40at%程度まで大量に添加含有しても、金属間化合物が生成せず、かつ、格子定数が大きくなることにより、Cu等の中間非磁性膜との格子整合が良好になり、いわゆるバルク散乱によるスピン依存散乱の増大が期待できる。このため、軟磁気特性の改善に加えて高△R/Rを維持することができる。

【0038】第3の発明は、基板上に、(n+1)層の 強磁性膜とn層の非磁性膜とが交互に形成されてなる積 層膜(ただし、nは1~4の整数を示す)を具備した磁 気抵抗効果素子であって、前記積層膜の最上層および最 下層の強磁性膜の少なくとも一方に隣接して抵抗率が5 0 μ Ω cm以上である強磁性膜がさらに積層形成されたこ とを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0039】第3の発明において、抵抗率が50μΩcm 以上である高抵抗強磁性膜は、強磁性膜またはフェリ磁 性膜のいずれであってもよい。また、強磁性膜を積層数 が5層以下の積層膜としたのは、強磁性膜/非磁性膜の 界面の数が多くなると、高抵抗強磁性膜/強磁性膜の界 面の働きが相対的に低下して△R/Rが向上しないから である。したがって、第3の発明は、スピンバルブ構造 の膜を有する磁気抵抗効果に適する。

【0040】このように、強磁性膜に高抵抗強磁性膜が 接するように積層することによって、境界面でのマグノ ンの発生を抑制することができる。その結果として、マ グノンと電子との衝突による電子のスピンの反転確率を 小さくすることができ、これにより室温での抵抗変化率 を増加させることが可能となり、高感度な磁気抵抗効果 素子が実現できる。ただし、この高抵抗強磁性膜材料の 抵抗率が50μΩcm未満であると、電流が主にこの高抵 抗強磁性膜中を流れてしまい、逆に抵抗変化率が減少し てしまう。換言すれば、抵抗率が50μΩcm以上の強磁 性膜を用いることにより、高抵抗強磁性膜に電流が取ら れることを防止することができ、シャント効果による磁 気抵抗変化率の低下が抑えられる。

【0041】高抵抗磁性膜の材料としては、Ni、F e、Co、NiFe、NiFeCo、CoFe、Co合 金等にTi、V、Cr、Mn、Zn、Nb、Tc、H f、Ta、W、Re等の元素を添加したものが挙げられ る。

【0042】第3の発明において、高抵抗強磁性膜は、 高抵抗軟磁性膜であることが好ましい。このとき、隣接 する強磁性膜と高抵抗軟磁性膜とが一体化することによ り、高抵抗軟磁性膜、例えば良好な軟磁気特性を有する 非晶質膜の磁化回転に伴い、強磁性膜の磁化も同様に磁 化回転する。これにより強磁性膜の軟磁気特性が改善さ

【0043】高抵抗軟磁性膜としては、CoZrNb等 からなる高抵抗非晶質膜、FeZrN、CoZrN等か らなる微結晶の高抵抗軟磁性膜、あるいはNiFeXに おいてXがRh, Nb, Zr, Hf, Ta, Re, I r, Pd, Pt, Cu, Mo, Mn, W, Ti, Cr, Au、およびAgからなる群より選ばれたいずれか一つ の元素である材料からなる膜を用いることができる。ま たこれらの中で、非晶質膜やCoZrN、NiFeNb 等からなる f c c 相を有する材料からなる膜を最下層の 強磁性膜に隣接形成すると、その上の強磁性膜のfcc (111)配向が促進されるのでよりこの好ましい。

【0044】高抵抗強磁性膜の膜厚は、0.5m以上と

することが好ましい。これは、膜厚が 0.5nm未満であ ると高抵抗強磁性膜自体の磁性が弱くなり、マグノンの 発生を抑制することが困難となるためである。一方、高 抵抗強磁性膜の軟磁気特性がそれに隣接する強磁性膜の 軟磁気特性よりも劣る場合には、高抵抗強磁性膜の膜厚 は10m以下であることが望ましい。これは、膜厚が1 0 nmを超えると強磁性膜の磁化過程に影響を与え、軟磁 気特性を得ることが困難となるからである。

【0045】第4の発明は、基板上に、(n+1)層の 強磁性膜と n層の第1の非磁性膜とが交互に形成されて なる積層膜(ただし、nは1~4の整数を示す)を具備 した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、前記積層膜の最上層お よび最下層の強磁性膜の少なくとも一方の厚さが5m以 下であり、この厚さが5mm以下の強磁性膜に隣接して抵 抗率が前記強磁性膜の2倍以下である第2の非磁性膜が さらに積層形成されたことを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素 子を提供する。

【0046】第4の発明において、第2の非磁性膜の材 料は、隣接する強磁性膜の材料と同じ結晶構造を有する ことが好ましい。すなわち、強磁性膜がfcc相を有す る材料からなる場合、第1の非磁性膜もfcc相を有す る材料が好ましく用いられる。このとき、第2の非磁性 膜の材料と強磁性膜の材料との間の格子定数の違いが5 %以内であることが好ましい。特に、第2の非磁性膜を 最下層の強磁性膜に隣接して形成する場合は、強磁性膜 と第2の非磁性膜との結晶整合性を高めることにより、 強磁性膜をエピタキシャル成長させることが可能とな り、よって界面における電子の散乱を抑制することがで きる。

【0047】具体的に、第2の非磁性膜の材料として は、Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Al, Pd, Pt, R h, Ir, Au, およびAgからなる群より選ばれた少 なくとも1種の元素を主成分としたものを用いることが できる。また、基板と第2の非磁性膜との間には、下地 膜を介在させてもよい。

【0048】第4の発明では、各強磁性膜において結晶 成長が阻害されないように、強磁性膜を構成する材料の 結晶は、膜厚方向に結晶粒径が大きいことが望ましい。 なお、強磁性膜は5層を超えると強磁性膜と非磁性膜と の界面の数が増加し、スピン依存散乱効果が実質的に消 失してしまう恐れがあるので、強磁性膜の積層数は5層 以下とする。

【0049】第4の発明において、第2の非磁性膜の膜 厚は、0.2~20mの範囲とすることが好ましい。こ れは、第2の非磁性膜の膜厚が0.2nm未満であると、 第2の非磁性膜内に流入した電子が基板等との界面にお いて非弾性散乱を受ける確率が増加し、平均自由行程を 有効に伸すことが困難となり、逆に膜厚が20mを超え ても、それ以上の効果が得られないと共に、第2の非磁 性膜のみを流れる電流が増え、大きな抵抗変化率を得る

ことが困難となるからである。

【0050】第4の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子をセンサに 適用する場合、第2の非磁性膜の材料は、強磁性膜の材料であるCoFe合金等の2倍以下の板状体であることが必要であり、さらには強磁性膜より小さい抵抗率を有することが好ましい。これは、第2の非磁性膜の抵抗率が強磁性膜の抵抗率より著しく大きいと、第2の非磁性膜に流入した電子が散乱を受け有効的な平均自由行程を長く保つことができず、抵抗変化率の増大は望めないからである。また、第2の非磁性膜の材料は、その抵抗率が強磁性膜の抵抗率の1/4以上であることが望ましい。これは、第2の非磁性膜材料の抵抗率が強磁性膜の抵抗率が1/4以上であることが望ましい。これは、第2の非磁性膜材料の抵抗率が強磁性膜の抵抗率の1/4以上であることが望ましい。これは、第2の非磁性膜材料の抵抗率が強磁性膜の抵抗率の1/4未満であると第2の非磁性膜のみに電流が流れ易くなるからである。

【0051】このような第4の発明は、少なくとも一方の強磁性膜に隣接して第2の非磁性膜を積層することにより、この強磁性膜の厚さを5 mm以下と薄くしても、電子の有効な平均自由行程を長く保てることを利用している。例えば、スピンバルブ構造の膜においては、強磁性膜の厚さを薄くしていくと、比抵抗が大きくなり、抵抗変化率が減少してしまう。そこで、強磁性膜を薄くすると同時に、薄くした強磁性膜に接して第2の非磁性膜を積層することにより、電子は強磁性膜表面において非弾性散乱を受けることなく、第2の非磁性膜に流入することができるようになり、有効的な平均自由行程を長く保ったまま、強磁性膜を薄くすることができる。このとき以上の作用を得るには、強磁性膜の積層数が5層以下である必要がある。

【0052】上述したように第4の発明では、第2の非磁性膜を強磁性膜に接して積層することにより、通常は著しい抵抗変化率の減少を招く強磁性膜の厚さが5nm以下の場合でも、抵抗変化率の大きな磁気抵抗効果素子が得られる。しかも、強磁性膜の厚さを5nm以下と薄くしたことによって、狭トラック幅の高密度磁気記録再生に対応して強磁性膜を微細形状に加工しても、反磁界による磁壁発生が抑制でき、よって信号磁界の検出感度が低下することなく、またバルクハウゼンノイズの発生を抑えることが可能となる。その結果、高密度記録の再生に適した、ノイズが少なく高感度な磁気抵抗効果素子が実現できる。

【0053】なお、第4の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、スピンバルブ構造の膜、人工格子膜のいずれを有するものであってもよい。ただし、スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子については、磁化が反強磁性膜等によって固着されていない強磁性膜に隣接して、第2の強磁性膜を積層形成することが好ましい。

【0054】第5の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる 積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、前記積層 膜の最上層および最下層の強磁性膜の少なくとも一方に 隣接してこの強磁性膜よりも大きい抵抗率および長い平 均自由行程を有する薄膜がさらに積層形成されたことを 特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0055】第5の発明において、薄膜の材料としては、Bi、Sb、炭素等の半金属、高濃度にドーピングを行い縮退した半導体、SnO2、TiO2等の酸化物半導体等が挙げられる。また、薄膜の膜厚は、1~50mmの範囲とすることが好ましい。これは、薄膜の膜厚が1m未満であると電子の平均自由行程の増大効果が十分に得られず、膜厚が50mを超えてもそれ以上の効果が得られないと共に、薄膜のみを流れる電流が増え、大きな抵抗変化率を得ることが困難となるからである。さらに、薄膜の抵抗率が強磁性膜の抵抗率より小さいと、電流が主に当該薄膜中を流れてしまい、磁気抵抗効果は逆に小さくなるので、薄膜は強磁性膜よりも大きい抵抗率を有するようにする。

【0056】なお、第5の発明おいて、平均自由行程とは、他の物に散乱されずに電子が移動する平均の距離をいう。

【0057】第5の発明において、強磁性膜の膜厚は、 薄膜と接する場合、第4の発明と同様の理由で5m以下 とすることが好ましく、薄膜と接しない強磁性膜は平均 自由行程を確保するために2~20mの範囲とすること が好ましい。

【0058】このような第5の発明は、少なくとも一方 の強磁性膜に接して、平均自由行程が長い薄膜を積層す ることにより、積層膜全体の有効的な平均自由行程を長 くすることができることを利用している。例えば、スピ ンバルブ型積層膜における磁気抵抗効果の物理的機構と しては、以下のことが知られている。すなわち、スピン バルブ型積層膜では、2つの強磁性膜間の磁化の方向が 互いに平行なときには、磁化に平行なスピンまたは磁化 に反平行のスピンのどちらか一方のスピンをもつ伝導電 子が、膜全体で長い平均自由行程を持つことができるよ うになり、全体として低い比抵抗値を示す。これに対し て、2つの強磁性膜間の磁化の方向が互いに反平行なと きには、膜全体で平均自由行程の長い伝導電子は存在し なくなり、比抵抗値が高くなる。スピンパルブ型積層膜 での磁気抵抗効果は、この2つの状態における平均自由 行程の長さの差によって決まる。

【0059】さらに、強磁性膜内部において、磁化に対して平行なスピンを持った電子と、反平行なスピンを持った電子とでは、その平均自由行程が異なることが知られており、上述した原因から、強磁性膜内部で長い平均自由行程を持つスピン方向の電子は、より長い平均自由行程を持っている方が、スピンバルブ型積層膜の磁気抵抗効果を大きくすることができる。そこで、第5の発明においては、平均自由行程が強磁性膜より長い薄膜を積層することにより、電子の有効的な平均自由行程を長くして、磁気抵抗効果をより大きくすることを可能にして

いる。ただし、上記薄膜の比抵抗が強磁性膜より小さい と、電流が主に積層した薄膜中を流れてしまい、磁気抵 抗効果は逆に小さくなってしまう。そのため、上記薄膜 の構成材料は、平均自由行程が長いと同時に、強磁性膜 の抵抗率以上の抵抗率を有することが必要となる。

【0060】また、上記平均自由行程が長い薄膜として、抵抗率が大きい材料を用いると共に、それと接する強磁性膜の厚さを薄くすることにより、積層膜全体としての比抵抗値を増加させることが可能になる。これにより、高い比抵抗値を持った積層膜が得られ、微細パターンにおいても低電流密度で大きな信号電圧を取り出すことができる。よって、発熱、マイグレーション等の問題を回避することが可能となる。

【0061】なお、第5の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、 上記構成に加えて非磁性膜と強磁性膜を交互に複数回積 層したものであってもよい。

【0062】第6の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、前記積層膜の最下層の強磁性膜がCoFe合金からなり、この強磁性膜に隣接してCoFe合金よりも格子定数の大きいfcc相を有する下地膜がさらに積層形成されてなることを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0063】第6の発明においては、格子定数の大きい f c c 相を有する下地膜上に形成される強磁性膜がC o F e 合金からなるとき低H c が実現され、特にC o 100-x F e x  $(5 \le x \le 40$  原子%)からなる強磁性膜 について軟磁気特性の改善が顕著となる。これは、F e 濃度が5 原子%未満であるとh c p 相が混入して、逆に F e 濃度が40 原子%を超えるとb c c 相が混入して格子不整合が起こるからである。また、C o F e に添加し得る他の元素としては、P d,A l,C u,T a,I n,B,Z r,N b,H f,M o,N i,W,R e,R u,I r,R h,G a,A u,A g を挙げることができ、これらの元素が添加含有された場合にも同様なH c 低減が実現される。

【0064】第6の発明において、また、下地膜としては、fcc相で格子定数がCoFeよりも大きい材料であれば限定されないが、強磁性膜を構成するCoFr合金より大きい抵抗率を有する材料を用いることが好ましい。具体的には、Cu、Pd、Al等、Niやこれらを主成分とする合金、あるいはfcc相を有する強磁性材料を用いることができる。この下地膜の膜厚は、1原子層以上であればHcを低減することができ、さらに100m以下とすることが好ましい。ただし、下地膜にCu等の抵抗率の低い材料を用いた場合には、センス電流が下地膜に分流し易くなるので、膜厚が2m以下であることが特に好ましい。また、基板と下地膜との間には、平滑性改善のための膜が形成されていることが好ましく、平滑性改善のための膜としては、Cr、Ta、Zr、T

i等からなる膜を用いることができる。

【0065】第6の発明では、fcc相であり強磁性膜 の材料よりも大きい格子定数を有する材料からなる下地 膜上に強磁性膜であるCo<sub>100-x</sub> Fe<sub>x</sub> (0<x<10 0原子%)膜を形成すると、適度な格子歪がСоFe膜 に誘導され、その結果Hcが大幅に低下して良好な軟磁 気特性を示す。なお、この格子歪は下地膜の種類だけで なく、強磁性膜の膜厚や下地膜の膜厚等を調整すること により容易に制御できる。したがって、この強磁性膜上 に例えばCu等の非磁性膜、CoFe膜等のスピン依存 散乱能力を有する強磁性膜、および反強磁性膜を順次形 成すると、僅かな信号磁界により大きな抵抗変化を生じ る高感度な磁気抵抗効果素子となる。ここで、基板上に 形成する下地膜の抵抗率が強磁性膜よりも大きいと、こ の下地膜へのセンス電流の分流が抑制でき、高い抵抗変 化率を示す。さらに、この下地膜が層状に膜成長しない ために各界面での平滑性が劣化して抵抗変化率が低下す る場合には、層状に膜成長させる働きのある別の下地膜 を上述したような下地膜と基板との間に介在させること により高い抵抗変化率を実現することができる。

【0066】なお、第6の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、 上記構成に加えて非磁性膜と強磁性膜を交互に複数回積 層したものであってもよい。

【0067】第7の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、第1の非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、少なくとも一方の強磁性膜の前記第1の非磁性膜と反対側の主面に隣接して第1の非磁性膜とは異なる厚さを有する第2の非磁性膜と強磁性膜とが交互に形成されており、これらの強磁性膜と第2の強磁性膜とからなる単位積層膜内での各強磁性膜の磁化が互いに強磁性的に結合されていることを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する

【0068】第7の発明においては、第1の非磁性膜を挟んで形成される両側の強磁性膜に対して少なくとも第2の非磁性膜および強磁性膜を隣接形成してもよいし、第1の非磁性膜の片側については単層の強磁性膜であってもよい。また、強磁性膜の第1の非磁性膜と反対側の主面に隣接して第2の非磁性膜および強磁性膜を交互に2周期以上形成して単位積層膜を構成することも可能である。ここで、単位積層膜中の第2の非磁性膜の厚さは2m以下であることが好ましく、さらに、互いに近接する強磁性膜がRKKY的な反強磁性結合をしない程度の厚さであることが好ましい。これは、単位積層膜中での各強磁性膜の磁化を強磁性的結合状態に保つためである。例えば、強磁性膜の材料がCoFeであり、第2の非磁性膜の材料がCuである場合には、第2の非磁性膜の材料がCuである場合には、第2の非磁性膜の材料がCuである場合には、第2の非磁性膜の材料がCuである場合には、第2の非磁性膜の材料がCuである場合には、第2の非磁性膜のする、1mm近傍でないように設定する。

【0069】また、強磁性膜と第2の非磁性膜とは格子整合を保って成長すること、すなわち強磁性膜と第2の

非磁性膜とが格子整合されて両者の界面における余分な 散乱がないことが望ましい。これにより、抵抗の増加を 防止することができる。

【0070】第7の発明において、強磁性膜と第2の非磁性膜とからなる単位積層膜は、軟磁気特性が良好であり、格子の整合性がよく、強磁性的に結合されているため、反強磁性結合状態に比べて抵抗が小さく、スピン依存散乱を生じる強磁性膜と非磁性膜との界面数が多い。このため、単位積層膜中でのいわゆるバルク散乱による抵抗変化率増大が期待できる。したがって、この単位積層膜を強磁性膜単位として用いた人工格子膜やスピンバルブ構造の膜は、軟磁気特性が良好であり、スピン依存散乱に起因した高い抵抗変化率を示す。その結果、高感度な磁気抵抗効果素子が得られる。

【0071】なお、第7の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、 上記構成に加えて第1の非磁性膜と単位積層膜または強 磁性膜を交互に複数回積層したものであってもよい。ま た、第7の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、スピンバルブ構 造の膜、人工格子膜のいずれを有するものであってもよ い。

【0072】第8の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、少なくとも一方の強磁性膜へのパイアス磁界印加手段として前記積層膜に隣接または近接して形成されたパイアス膜を備え、かつ、2つの前記強磁性膜にそれぞれトラック幅方向の成分が互いに反平行となる方向のパイアス磁界が印加されて、2つの前記強磁性膜の磁化が信号磁界により互いに逆方向に回転することを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0073】第8の発明において、信号磁界により2つ の強磁性膜の磁化が互いに逆回転するようなパイアス磁 界を印加する方法としては、積層膜に隣接または近接し てバイアス膜を形成する方法、より具体的には反強磁性 膜からの交換結合を用いる方法、硬質磁性膜を用いる方 法、スピン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜に新たな強磁 性膜を積層することにより生じる交換バイアスを利用す る方法等や、さらにはセンス電流により発生するバイア ス磁界や、微細パターン加工時に発する静磁結合(反磁 界) を利用する方法が採用される。ただし、少なくとも 一方の強磁性膜に対しては上述したようなバイアス膜を 形成して、バイアス磁界が印加される。具体的には、例 えば、2つの強磁性膜に隣接してそれぞれ反強磁性膜を 積層し、この反強磁性膜を用い、隣り合う強磁性膜間で バイアス磁界の方向が180°異なるようにそれぞれの 強磁性膜を着磁する。この場合の着磁は、強磁性膜およ び反強磁性膜の成膜時に静磁界を加える方向を180° 変えること等により達成できる。ここで、隣り合う強磁 性膜に加えるパイアス磁界は、強磁性膜の単磁区化に必 要最少限の大きさ、例えば5 k A/m以下であることが 望ましい。また、両反強磁性膜は、2つの強磁性膜に互 いに異なる方向のバイアス磁界を容易に印加するため に、それぞれ異なるネール点を有することが好ましい。 【0074】あるいは、以下に示す方法もある。一方の 強磁性膜へのバイアス磁界印加には、反強磁性膜との積 層による交換バイアス磁界を用いる。これに対し、別の 強磁性膜へのバイアス磁界印加には、反強磁性膜の前記 強磁性膜と反対側の主面に隣接して新たな強磁性膜を積 層して、反強磁性膜により磁化固着された新たな強磁性 膜から微細パターンに加工した時に発生する静磁結合磁 界(反磁界)を利用する。なお、この新たな強磁性膜 は、反強磁性膜と接する側から順に交換バイアスが加わ るのに適した強磁性膜A(例えば、NiFeやCoFe 等の結晶性の良い膜)と、さらに静磁結合磁界を発生す るのに適した別の強磁性膜B(例えば、Co系の非晶質 強磁性膜や窒化または炭化微結晶強磁性膜等)を強磁性 交換結合するように積層した2層構造とすることが望ま しい。この2層構造では、強磁性膜Bの膜厚、組成調 整、作製条件等により強磁性膜のBsや抵抗値を例え ば、Bsが低く、抵抗値が高くなるように調整すること により、静磁結合バイアス磁界強度や、強磁性膜Bをセ ンス電流の一部が流れることにより発生するいわゆるシ ャントバイアス(動作点バイアス)を調整することがで きる。なお、強磁性膜が異方性磁気抵抗効果を有するN i Fe等からなる場合には、センス電流を信号磁界の方 向と直交する方向に流すことが好ましい。すなわち、セ ンス電流を信号磁界と直交する方向に流す方式では、N iFe膜等を用いた場合に無視できない通常の異方性磁 気抵抗効果とスピン依存散乱による抵抗変化とが重畳さ れるので、 AR/Rが増大する。

【0075】また、反強磁性膜を用いて強磁性膜にバイアス磁界を印加する場合には、そのバイアス磁界が大きすぎることがときに問題となるが、この大きなバイアス磁界は反強磁性膜と強磁性膜との間に、反強磁性膜側を強磁性膜とした強磁性膜と非磁性膜との積層膜を介在させること等により低減できる。

【0076】上述したような第8の発明においては、隣り合う強磁性膜間での磁化が信号磁界により急峻に反平行的な状態から平行的な状態に変化する。さらに、両強磁性膜の信号磁界零の場合の磁化方向を反平行にさせるために必要な反強磁性膜等からのバイアス磁界は、バルクハウゼンノイズ抑制のために必要な最小限に抑制される。このため、磁気ヘッドに適する困難軸方向に信号磁界を加えた場合(高周波特性が良好等の利点を有する)でも、両強磁性膜の磁化回転により、両強磁性膜間の磁化が0~180°まで比較的低い磁界範囲で変化する。したがって、容易軸方向と同程度の大きな抵抗変化率を比較的低い磁界レンジで示す。なお、第8の発明では、2つの強磁性膜に印加されるバイアス磁界の方向を必ずしも互いに反平行とする必要はなく、換言すれば、信号

磁界零の場合における両強磁性膜の磁化方向と信号磁界方向とのなす角がそれぞれ $+90^\circ$ 、 $-90^\circ$  に設定されてなくてもよい。具体的には、信号磁界零の場合の両強磁性膜の磁化方向と信号磁界とのなす角がそれぞれ $+30^\circ$   $\sim60^\circ$  、 $-30^\circ$   $\sim60^\circ$  の範囲内に設定されることが好ましい。この理由は信号磁界零の場合の両強磁性膜の磁化方向を、反平行状態から信号磁界とのなす角が上述したような範囲内となるように傾けることにより、動作点パイアスが不要となるからである。

【0077】さらに、従来のスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子では、非磁性膜の膜厚が薄くなると抵抗変化率が指数関数的に増大するので、できるだけ非磁性膜の膜厚を薄くすることが望ましいが、実際には、非磁性膜の膜厚が2nm未満になると上下強磁性膜間の強磁性的結合が強くなり、反強磁性的磁化配列が実現できなくなり、抵抗変化率が大幅に低下する問題点がある。しかしながら、両強磁性膜にバイアス磁界を加える第8の発明においては、非磁性膜の膜厚が2nm未満になっても反平行バイアス磁界強度の調整により反強磁性的磁化配列が実現できるので、抵抗変化率の飛躍的増大が期待できる。

【0078】また、2つの強磁性膜にバイアス磁界を加えるので、すべての強磁性膜から磁壁がなくなりバルクハウゼンノイズが抑制できる。

【0079】なお、第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、 上記構成に加えて非磁性膜と強磁性膜を交互に複数回積 層したものであってもよい。

【0080】第9の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、2つの前記強磁性膜はそれぞれ信号磁界が印加されてもその磁化方向が実質的に保持される磁化固着膜、および信号磁界により磁化が変化して信号磁界を検出する磁界検出膜となり、信号磁界零の場合における2つの前記強磁性膜の磁化方向が互いに略直交しており、かつ、信号磁界方向にセンス電流を通電することを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0081】第9の発明において、磁化固着膜の磁化を固着させる方法としては、反強磁性膜を磁化固着膜と交換結合するように積層する方法、磁化固着膜の高Hc化を図る方法、高Hcを有する強磁性膜を磁化固着膜に積層する方法が挙げられる。また、信号磁界零の場合における磁化固着膜と磁界検出膜の磁化方向を互いに直交させる方法としては、磁化固着膜の磁化と直交するように磁界検出膜の磁化容易軸を付与する方法、磁界検出膜の磁化を易くを形成し磁化固着膜の磁化と直交する方向に例えば5kA/m以下程度の弱い交換結合バイアスを与える方法等が挙げられる。なお、後者の方法によれば、磁界検出膜が特に大きなバイアス破界を有するCoFeからなる場合でも、磁化固着膜の磁化と略同一方向に磁界検出膜の磁化容易軸を付与して、

この磁化容易軸と直交する膜面内方向にCoFeの異方性磁界を若干上回る交換結合パイアスを与えることにより、磁界検出膜の磁気異方性を低減でき、結果として低い磁界レンジで大きな抵抗変化率を得ることが可能となる。

【0082】第9の発明において、信号磁界0の状態で磁化固着膜と信号磁界検出膜の磁化のなす角度を約90°に設定すると、例えば正の信号磁界の方向に磁化固着膜の磁化が向いている場合には、正の信号磁界では隣り合う強磁性膜間の磁化のなす角度が強磁性的になるので抵抗が低下し、逆に、負の信号磁界では、隣り合う強磁性膜間の磁化のなす角度が反強磁性的になるので抵抗が上昇する。すなわち動作点バイアスが不要になる。

【0083】さらに、センス電流を信号磁界方向に通電することにより、磁界検出膜の磁化が電流磁界により信号磁界と直交する方向に向けて傾く。したがって、磁界検出膜に加わる電流磁界のためにバルクハウゼンノイズが抑制できる。また、この場合、電流磁界があるので磁界検出膜においては必ずしも磁化容易軸を必要としない。

【0084】なお、第9の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、 上記構成に加えて非磁性膜と強磁性膜を交互に複数回積 層したものであってもよい。

【0085】第10の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、2つの前記強磁性膜はそれぞれ信号磁界が印加されてもその磁化方向が実質的に保持される磁化固着膜、および信号磁界によりその磁化方向が変化して信号磁界を検出する磁界検出膜となり、信号磁界零の場合における2つの前記強磁性膜の磁化方向のなす角が30°以上60°以下であることを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0086】第10の発明において、磁化固着膜の磁化 を固着させる方法としては、第9の発明と同様に磁化固 着膜に反強磁性膜を積層することにより生じる交換バイ アスを利用する方法や磁化固着膜となる強磁性膜を高保 磁力膜とする方法等がある。また、磁界検出膜へのバイ アス磁界印加手段としては、磁界検出膜の磁化容易軸、 磁界検出膜に隣接または近接して形成した硬質磁性膜か らのバイアス磁界、前記反強磁性膜に隣接または近接し て形成した強磁性膜から発生する静磁パイアス、センス 電流からの電流磁界等を利用できる。なお、センス電流 からの電流磁界を用いるためには、信号磁界とほぼ同じ 方向にセンス電流を通電することが必要である。ただ し、磁化固着膜において磁化を安定的に固着させる観点 からは、センス電流からの電流磁界が磁化固着膜の磁化 方向とほぼ同じ方向に加わるように、センス電流を信号 磁界と直交する方向に通電することが望ましい。

【0087】第10の発明では、信号磁界零の場合における磁化固着膜と磁界検出膜とのなす角を30~60

。以内に設定したので、磁化固着膜からの漏れ磁界により、動作点バイアスを不要としながらバルクハウゼンノイズ除去を行うことができる。第10の発明で上述したような磁化固着膜と磁界検出膜とのなす角 $\theta$ を30°  $\sim$ 60°に設定したのは、角 $\theta$ が30° 未満であると信号磁界に対する線形応答磁界範囲が狭まり、60° を超えるとバルクハウゼンノイズ除去を充分に行うことができない恐れがあるからである。

【0088】ここで、信号磁界と直交する方向にセンス 電流を流す場合には、2つの強磁性膜間の強磁性的結合 磁界の方向と電流磁界の方向が同じ軸上にある。その結 果、透磁率低下を引き起こす隣り合う強磁性膜間の強磁 性的結合方向とこの電流磁界方向が略同一方向となるよ うにセンス電流を流すと、この場合には、磁化固着され ていない強磁性膜の磁化方向が磁化固着されている強磁 性膜の磁化方向に回転するので、両強磁性膜の磁化のな す角度が減少する。その結果、強磁性膜として異方性磁 気抵抗効果を示す材料を用いても異方性磁気抵抗効果と スピン依存散乱による抵抗変化が重畳されて、感度の増 大が期待できる。逆に、強磁性的結合方向と電流磁界方 向が逆方向になるようにセンス電流を流すと、この場合 には、両強磁性膜のなす角度が増大するので、信号磁界 に対する線形応磁界範囲を拡大できる。したがって、強 磁性膜の材料等に応じて、センス電流の通電方向を適宜 選択することが好ましい。

【0089】なお、第10の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、上記構成に加えて非磁性膜と強磁性膜を交互に複数回積層したものであってもよい。

【0090】第11の発明は、基板上に、少なくとも強磁性膜、非磁性膜、および強磁性膜が順次積層されてなる積層膜を具備した磁気抵抗効果素子であって、2つの前記強磁性膜へのバイアス磁界印加手段として前記積層膜に隣接または近接して積層形成された2層以上のバイアス膜を備えることを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0091】第11の発明において、バイアス膜は、積層膜の最上層の強磁性膜上、および最下層の強磁性膜と基板との間にそれぞれ形成してもよいし、積層膜の最上層の強磁性膜上に2層以上形成してもよいし、最下層の強磁性膜と基板との間に2層以上形成してもよい。

【0092】第11の発明において、前記バイアス膜としては反強磁性膜または強磁性膜を挙げることができ、このような反強磁性膜からの交換結合磁界、強磁性膜からの交換結合磁界または静磁結合磁界、さらには、センス電流からの電流磁界等がバイアス磁界として積層膜中の強磁性膜に印加される。なお、ここで、バイアス膜としての強磁性膜から交換結合磁界を発生させる場合は、積層膜の強磁性膜とバイアス膜としての強磁性膜との間に交換バイアスを低減させる膜を配置しても、積層膜の強磁性膜上にそのバイアス膜としての強磁性膜を直接形

成してもよい。ただし、前者の場合、バイアス膜の一軸 異方性磁界Hkが積層膜の強磁性膜の一軸異方性磁界H kよりも大きいことが好ましく、バイアス膜の保磁力H cが積層膜の強磁性膜の保磁力Hcよりも大きいことが 好ましい。

【0093】第11の発明では、最上層または最下層の 強磁性膜のどちらか一方にはその磁化が実質的に信号磁 界では動かないようなバイアス磁界を加え磁化固着膜と し、もう一方には信号磁界が検出できバルクハウゼンノ イズが除去できるようなバイアス磁界を加え磁界検出膜 とすることが好ましい。このときの磁化固着膜へのバイ アス磁界印加には反強磁性膜の積層が適する。また、磁 界検出膜へのバイアス磁界印加には強磁性膜または反強 磁性膜の積層が適する。ここで、バイアス膜としての強 磁性膜には、回転磁界中で熱処理を施したCo系非晶質 膜等何等かの方法で単磁区化され磁化方向が一方向に揃 った高抵抗の軟磁性膜や、静磁界中で熱処理を施したC oあるいはCoFe系の非晶質膜等高い一軸磁気異方性 を有する膜、あるいは高保磁力膜等が適する。またバイ アス膜となる強磁性膜を他の膜よりも幅広く形成して、 そのエッジ部に硬質磁性膜や反強磁性膜を積層しても単 磁区化された高抵抗な軟磁性膜が実現できる。

【0094】第11の発明において、少なくとも2層のパイアス膜を上述したような積層膜に隣接または近接してさらに積層形成することにより、特定の強磁性膜へは磁化固着を可能にするような強いパイアス磁界を、他の特定の強磁性膜へはパルクハウゼンノイズを除去するために必要最小限のバイアス磁界を加えることが可能となる。このとき、2層以上のパイアス膜が積層形成される第11の発明では、例えば磁界検出膜のみを他の磁化固着膜等より幅広く形成してそのエッジ部にパイアス膜を積層する場合に比べ、一括した連続成膜によりパイアス膜を含めた多層膜が短時間で容易に作製できる利点がある。これは、厚さが1~20m程度の磁界検出膜のエッジ部のみを残して他の磁化固着膜等のエッジ部を除去し、磁界検出膜のみを幅広く形成することが非常に困難であることに基づく。

【0095】さらに、ここで2層のバイアス膜により強磁性膜に印加されるバイアス磁界を直交させると、第9の発明と同様に信号磁界零の場合における磁化固着膜と磁界検出膜の磁化方向のなす角がほば90°になり、動作点バイアスが不要になる。また、磁界検出膜に加わるバイアス磁界によりバルクハウゼンノイズが除去でき、かつ、バイアス磁界の大きさがバイアス膜の磁気異方性や膜厚、あるいは積層膜とバイアス膜との界面の調整により容易に制御できる。しかも、バイアス磁界で強磁性膜の磁化容易軸の方向と略直交方向に印加すれば、高いHkを示すCo系材料からなる強磁性膜についても膜の透磁率を向上させることができる。

【0096】また、第11の発明は、3層の強磁性膜お

よび2層の非磁性膜が交互に形成されてなる積層膜を基板上に具備し、最上層および最下層の強磁性膜が磁化固着膜となり、透磁率が高い中央の強磁性膜が磁界検出膜となる磁気抵抗効果素子にも好ましく適用できる。

【0097】このような磁気抵抗効果素子では、最上層の強磁性膜と最下層の強磁性膜は、低透磁率、すなわち積層膜に隣接または近接してさらに積層形成された2層以上のバイアス膜で磁化が固着されているので、信号磁界に対する磁化方向の変化は僅かである。一方、中央の強磁性膜は透磁率が高いために、僅かな磁界により大きな磁化回転を生じる。その結果、最上層の強磁性膜と最下層の強磁性膜の磁化と中央の強磁性膜の磁化のなす角度が信号磁界により鋭敏に変化する。また、従来のスピンバルブ構造の膜に比べてスピン依存散乱を生じる界面数が少なくとも2倍に増える。このため、僅かな磁界で大きな抵抗変化が得られる。

【0098】なお、中央の強磁性膜の磁化を反強磁性膜等のバイアス膜により固着して透磁率を低下させると、反強磁性膜は抵抗率が高いのでΔR/Rは大幅に低下するが、最上層および最下層の強磁性膜の磁化を固着する場合は、反強磁性膜をスピン依存散乱ユニットの外に配置できるので、ΔR/Rを低下させることなく磁化固着が可能になる。

【0099】さらに、高透磁率の強磁性膜は、スピンバルブ構造の積層膜の中央近傍に存在するので、センス電流からの電流磁界は弱くなり、その結果、電流磁界により磁界検出膜となる強磁性膜の磁化配列が乱される問題も回避できる。

【0100】第12の発明は、基板上に、膜面内に六方晶C軸が存在する高保磁力膜と、前記高保磁力膜よりも低い保磁力を有する強磁性膜とを具備することを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0101】第12の発明において、通常の高保磁力膜が膜面垂直方向の結晶磁気異方性による強い静磁結合で、低保磁力膜を高保磁力化してしまうことを抑制できる。これにより、この高保磁力膜をスピンバルプ構造の膜における磁化固着膜とした場合に、信号磁界を検出する磁界検出膜の軟磁気特性を劣化させることはない。また、磁化の平行状態、反平行状態を効率良く実現でき、さらに積層膜中の非磁性膜厚を著しく薄くすることができるため抵抗変化率を増大させることができる。なお、ここで磁化固着膜としての高保磁力膜および非磁性膜は交互に複数回積層されてもよい。

【0102】さらに、単結晶様の高保磁力膜は電気抵抗が低いため、低保磁力膜との積層膜とした場合でもスピン依存散乱には影響せず出力を増大させることができる。さらに、この単結晶様の高保磁力膜は高い結晶磁気異方性を持つことから、高透磁率(磁化が動きにくい)を有し、磁化固着の効果が大きい。

【0103】また、第12発明において、高保磁力膜は

強磁性膜にバイアス磁界を印加するためのバイアス膜として用いてもよい。このとき例えば、高保磁力膜を磁化固着膜の磁化を固着させるためのバイアス膜として用いた場合にも、信号磁界を検出する磁界検出膜の軟磁気特性を劣化させることはない。さらに、この高保磁力膜は、バルクハウゼンノイズ対策用のバイアス膜や、信号磁界がない場合に磁化の反結合状態を作るバイアス膜やしても用いることができ、同時に両方の機能を持たせることも可能である。さらに、第12の発明は、基板上に強磁性膜および非磁性膜が交互に形成されてなる積層膜を具備する磁気抵抗効果素子に限らず、NiFe合金等の異方性磁気抵抗効果を利用する磁気抵抗効果素子にも適用可能である。

【0104】以下、本発明の実施例を具体的に説明する。

【0105】 (実施例1) 基板として、 $0.2\mu$ mの触針先端半径を有する触針式表面粗さ計で平均表面凹凸が2m程度になるまでサファイア基板 C面( $\alpha-Al_2O_3$  基板の(0001)面)をメカノケミカルポリッシング法により研磨して鏡面状態としたものを用いた。

【0106】このサファイア基板を真空チャンパー内に 載置し、真空チャンバー内を5×10-7Torr以下にまで 排気した。その後、真空チャンパー内にArガスを導入 し、真空チャンバー内を約3 mTorrとして、約4000 A/mの静磁界中においてスパッタリングを行うことに より、図1に示すように、サファイア基板10上に強磁 性膜であるC O90F e10膜11、中間非磁性膜であるC u膜12、強磁性膜であるComFem膜11、反強磁 性膜であるFeMn膜13、保護膜であるTi膜14を 順次成膜してTi5nm/FeMn8nm/Co90Fe108 nm/Cu2. 2nm/Co90Fe108nmなるスピンバルブ 構造の積層膜を作製して磁気抵抗効果素子を得た。さら に、この積層膜上にCuリード15を形成した。なお、 CoFe系合金膜の組成は、大きな抵抗変化率を示すこ と [日本応用磁気学会誌、16,313(1992)] および軟磁気 特性の点からCogoFe10とした。

【0107】ここで、保護膜の材料としては、Ti以外にCu、Cr、W、SiN、TiN等の非磁性体を用いることができる。なお、<math>FeMnの酸化を防ぐため、酸化物以外の材料を用いることが望ましい。また、Ti膜14の膜厚は保護効果があれば5nmでなくてもよいが、センス電流を流す際のTi 膜14への分流による感度低下を防ぐため、また $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜11に比べて高い電気抵抗率を有することを考慮して膜厚は数+nm以下であることが望ましい。

【0108】FeMn膜13と接するCogoFelo膜1 1は、FeMnにより磁化固着され、もう一方のCogo Felo膜11は、外部磁界に応じて磁化反転・回転す る。強磁性膜であるCogoFelo膜11の膜厚は2層と も8mmとしたが、2層の強磁性膜の厚さは同じでも異な っていてもよい。強磁性膜は、その膜厚が一原子層( $0.2\,\mathrm{nm}$ )以上であれば原理的に使用可能であるが、MRエレメントの実用上 $0.5\sim20\,\mathrm{nm}$ が妥当である。【0109】 $2\,\mathrm{cm}$ Co $_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜 $11\,\mathrm{om}$ に形成されたCu膜 $12\,\mathrm{om}$ 厚は本実施例では $2.2\,\mathrm{nm}$ で形成したが、この膜厚以外でもよく、実用上 $0.5\sim20\,\mathrm{nm}$ が望ましい。また、Cu以外の材料としては、Au、Ag、Ru、Cu合金等を用いることができる。

【0110】反強磁性膜であるFeMn膜13は、直接 接するCog0Fe10膜11の磁化固着に使用される。こ の膜厚は、約1nm以上あれば使用可能であるが、信頼性 および実用性から2m~50mであることが望ましい。 なお、FeMn以外に、反強磁性膜の材料としてNi酸 化物も使用できる。反強磁性膜の材料としてNi酸化物 を用いる場合、Arおよび酸素の混合ガス雰囲気中でス パッタリングを行ったり、イオンビームスパッタ法、デ ュアルイオンビームスパッタ法等を適用することで良好 なNi酸化物の反強磁性膜を形成することができる。ま た、Ni酸化物膜は、サファイア基板C面上に良好に形 成することができるので、スピンバルブ構造をTi5nm  $/Co_{90}Fe_{10}8nm/Cu_2$ .  $2nm/Co_{90}Fe_{10}8nm$ /Ni酸化物50mとすることもできる。この場合、N i 酸化物膜の厚さは1nm以上であれば、安定したバイア ス磁界をCogoFeio膜に与えることができる。

【0111】磁気抵抗効果素子の磁気特性、抵抗変化率、並びに結晶構造を調べた。なお、磁気特性は振動型磁力計(VSM)にて最大印加磁界1.2MA/mで測定し、抵抗変化率は静磁界中で4端子抵抗測定法により測定した。結晶構造は $\theta-2\theta$ スキャンおよびロッキングカーブX線回折法で測定した。VSMおよびX線回折では、メタルマスクで8㎜角にパターニングされた膜について、抵抗変化率はメタルマスクにより1㎜×8㎜のストライブ状にパターニングされた膜について測定した。磁気抵抗効果素子の磁界中における抵抗変化は四端子法で測定した。

【0112】磁気抵抗効果素子の測定結果を図2に示す。図2から分かるように、磁化容易軸方向に外部磁界を印加すると、最大抵抗変化率は約10%であった。また、この磁気抵抗効果素子の保磁力は160A/m以下であった。このように、この磁気抵抗効果素子は、約160A/mの弱い磁界で、約10%の大きな抵抗変化が得られており、良好な軟磁気特性と高い抵抗変化率が得られたことが分かった。また、磁化困難軸方向に外部磁界を印加すると、抵抗変化率は約4%であったが、保磁力は80A/mと軟磁気特性は極めて良好であった。

【0113】また、この磁気抵抗効果素子の磁化曲線を図3(A)および図3(B)に示す。図3(A)から分かるように、磁化容易軸方向の保磁力は約160A/m、磁化困難軸方向の保磁力は約80A/mであることが分かる。また、図3(B)から分かるように、磁化容

易軸方向には、FeMnに接するComFeln膜に約 5.3KA/mの交換バイアスが印加されていることが 分かる。

【0114】また、この磁気抵抗効果素子の結晶構造は、強いfcc相(111)面配向(最密面配向)を示していた。

【0115】熱酸化Si基板上に上記と同様にしてTi/FeMn/CoFe/Cu/CoFe膜を形成した。これについて上記と同様にして評価した結果、X線回折の最密面ピークは上記の場合と比べて1/10以下に低下し、Hcは容易軸方向で3000A/mであり、磁気抵抗効果素子には応用困難な高い値であり、抵抗変化率も上記の(111)配向膜よりも小さな8%以下の値を示した。

【0116】次に、MgO(100)基板上に上記と同様にしてTi/FeMn/CoFe/Cu/CoFe膜を作製した。これについて上記と同様にして評価した結果、X線回折ピークは高強度(100)ピークのみを、すなわち良好な(100)配向を示した。このとき、Hcは容易軸方向で1200A/mであり、磁気抵抗効果素子には応用困難な高い値を示し、抵抗変化率も上記の(111)配向膜よりも小さな8%以下の値を示した。【0117】以上のことから、(111)配向を実現すると、低Hcかつ高抵抗変化率が実現できることが分かる。

【0118】次に、強磁性膜としてCo膜を用いたTi5 nm/Fe M n 8 nm/Co8 nm/Cu2. 2 nm/Co8 nmなるスピンパルブ構造の磁気抵抗効果素子をサファイア C面基板上に作製し、上記と同様にして磁気特性および抵抗変化率を測定したところ、同様な最密面配向、抵抗変化率は8%程度の値を示し、保磁力は800A/m程度あった。なお、熱酸化Si基板では、 $\Delta R/R=7$ %、Hc=2000A/mであった。

【0119】これらの結果から強磁性膜の材料としてCoを用いても低Hc、高△R/Rが得られるが、強磁性膜の材料としてCoにFeを添加した合金を用いることで軟磁気特性が発生しやすくなっており、より望ましい。

【0120】さらに、Ti5nm/FeMn8nm/Co100-xFex8nm/Cu2.2nm/Co100-xFex8nm/Uu2.2nm/Co100-xFex8nm/サファイアC面またはガラス基板からなるスピンバルブ型の磁気抵抗効果素子を<math>Co100-xFex強磁性膜のFe濃度x(原子%)を変化させて作製した。その結果得られた $\Delta R/R$ とHcの関係を下記表1に示す。表1から分かるように、サファイアC面上では $5 \le x \le 4$ 0の範囲で顕著なHc低減と $\Delta R/R$ の増大が実現されることが明らかである。

[0121]

【表 1 】

x (原子%)	基 板	Нс	△R/R
		(A/m)	(%)
5	サファイア C面	400	9 5
10	<b>サファイア C面</b>	160	10
15	<b>サファイア C面</b>	240	12
20	<b>サファイア C面</b>	420	11
30	<b>ウファイア C面</b>	400	10.5
40	サファイア C面	700	9
6 0	サファイア C面	1000	6
5	ガラス基板	2800	7. 5
10	ガラス基板	3000	8 .
15	ガラス基板	1800	7. 5
20	ガラス基板	1500	7
3 0	ガラス基板	1700	7
40	ガラス基板	2500	7. 5
60	ガラス基板	3000	6

(実施例2) サファイア基板のC面上、ガラス基板(コーニング社製#0211)上、Si基板の(111)面上に、厚さ10mのCu下地膜を形成し、さらにその上にそれぞれ実施例1と同様の成膜条件でCogoFe10膜を形成した。なお、Cu下地膜は、バイアススパッタリング法やイオンアシストしたイオンピームスパッタリング法・蒸着法等で成膜できる。このCogoFe10膜の保磁力(Hc)を測定した。また、前記それぞれの基板上にCu下地膜を介してCogoFe10膜の保磁力(Hc)を測定した。そのCogoFe10膜の保磁力(Hc)を測定した。その結果を図6に示す。さらに、前記基板上にCu下地膜を形成せずに上記と同様にして種々の膜厚のCogoFe10膜を形成して、それぞれその保磁力(Hc)を測定した。その結果を図7に示す。

【0122】図6および図7から分かるように、いずれの基板においても、Cu下地膜が形成されている場合(図6)は、Cu下地膜が無い場合よりも低いHcを示している。また、Cu下地膜の有無にかかわらず、サファイア基板のC面、Si基板の(111)面、ガラス基板の順にHcが低く、良好であることが分かる。特に、サファイア基板のC面にCu下地膜を介して厚さ8nmのCo90Fe10膜を形成した場合に、80A/m以下の低Hcを示した。なお、Cu下地膜を有するCo90Fe10膜のHcは、Co90Fe10膜の膜厚増加にしたがって僅かに増加する傾向を示した。一方、Cu下地膜なしのCo90Fe10膜のHcは、まず膜厚増加に伴い減少し、さらに膜厚が増加するにしたがって増加する傾向を示した。例えば、Co90Fe10膜の膜厚が約8nmである場合、そのHcの極小値は160A/m以下であった。

【0123】このように、基板上に強磁性膜を形成する際に両者の間に下地膜を形成することにより、良好な軟磁気特性を得ることができることが分かる。

【0124】また、サファイア基板のC面上またはSi基板上に $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜やCo膜を形成する場合の下地膜としてCuNi合金膜を用いることにより、良好な軟磁気特性が得られることが分かった。また、ガラス基板上またはセラミック基板上に $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜やCo膜を形成する場合の下地膜として数 $\sim100$  mmのGe, Si, またはTi膜を用いることにより、最密面配向が促進され、その結果、良好な軟磁気特性を得られることが分かった。

【0125】また、Co90Fe10膜やCo膜より高抵抗である材料を下地膜に用いることにより、MRセンス電流の分流を防ぐことができる。例えば、実施例1において記述したNi酸化物膜は高抵抗であり、サファイア基板のC面上にエピタキシャル成長させることが可能な反強磁性膜であるので、下地膜と反強磁性バイアス膜を兼ねることができる。図8にNi酸化物膜26を用いたスピンバルブ構造の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す。

【0126】 (実施例3)  $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜が示す保磁力に及ぼすサファイア基板の面方位の影響を調べた。本実施例では、C面およびR面 ( $\alpha-A1_2O_3$  基板の(1012) 面) で比較した。

【0127】 膜厚10nmのCognFein膜をサファイア 基板のC面とR面上にそれぞれ形成した。この面方位に よる結晶配向の違いを図9(A)および図9(B)に示 す。図9(A)から分かるように、C面上では、良好な fcc(111)配向が実現でき、その結果保磁力が1 60A/m以下と良好な軟磁気特性を有するCoFe合金膜が形成できた。一方、図9(B)から分かるように、R面上では、fcc(111)のピーク以外にもfcc(200)のピークが検出され、fcc(111)配向があまり良好でない。このため、保磁力が数百A/m以上もあり、良好な軟磁気特性は得られなかった。

【0128】図9(A)において、C面では基板であるサファイアのピーク以外に $2\theta=43.5^\circ$  付近にfcc相(111)面に対応するピークのみ(若干のhcp相(001)面配向を含み得る)が強く現れている。また、このピーク強度が強いほど $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜は低保磁力を示した。一方、図9(B)において、R面ではサファイアのピークおよびfcc相(111)面ピーク以外に、 $2\theta=52.6^\circ$  付近にfcc相(200)面に対応するピークが現れている。このfcc相(100)面配向の存在は、結晶磁気異方性容易軸が面内に現れていることを意味し、これは保磁力を上昇させる原因となる。

【0129】次に、このサファイア基板のC面上におけるCo90Fe10膜の(111)面(最密面)に対応するピークに関して、ロッキングカーブを測定した。そのロッキングカーブを図10に示す。図10から分かるように、 $\theta$ =21.8°付近をピークとして半値幅が3°程度と極めて強い配向が確認できる。このロッキングカーブには、サファイア基板のピークも重複されているが、Co90Fe10膜の良好な結晶配向が確認できる。

【0130】次に、図11に、CoggFe10膜の保磁力 と、Coց0Feょ0膜の(111)面(最密面)に対応す るピークのロッキングカープにおける半値幅との相関を 示す。図11から分かるように、ガラス基板上にCog Fe10膜を形成すると、(111)ピークが微弱である 場合が多く、ロッキングカープ半値幅は20°以上であ り、Hcは3000A/m以上であった。また、Ar圧 カ、基板温度を最適化してロッキングカーブの半値幅が 15°程度になると、Hcは1000A/m程度に減少 する。このCogoFe10にAlを約1%を添加した材料 からなる膜をガラス基板上に形成すると、半値幅は8° 程度に減少し、Hcは350A/m程度となる。また、 サファイア基板のC面上にCogoFe10膜を形成するこ とにより、さらに半値幅は3°程度にまで減少し、Hc は約160A/m程度となる。したがって、最密面(C O90Fe10膜の場合(111)面)に対応するピークの ロッキングカープの半値幅が20°未満に減少するに伴 い、急激に保磁力が減少する傾向にあることが確認でき る。例えば、ロッキングカーブの半値幅が7°以下で、 保磁力が160A/mと良好な値に近付いてくることが 分かる。すなわち、CogoFe10膜の最密面配向が強く なっていくにしたがって、CogoFelo膜の保磁力が低 下する。このように、良好な軟磁気特性は強磁性膜の配 向度と強く相関があることが分かる。

【0131】CogoFelo膜の最密面配向を強くする方法としては、上述したように、第1に後述する各種添加元素を加える方法、第2に基板材料・方位を選択する方法、第3に基板とCogoFelo膜との間に下地膜を設ける方法、第4にMBE等の超高真空成膜装置により成膜する方法等いくつかの方法が挙げられる。なお、第2の方法において、基板にサファイア基板のC面を用いた場合、その面をメカノケミカルボリッシュ、フロートポリッシュまたはイオンポリッシュ等で研磨して基板の平均表面粗さ(Ra)を2nm以下にすることにより、その上に形成したCogoFelo膜がさらに良好な軟磁気特性を示すことが分かった。しかし、平均表面粗さが5nm以上では、CogoFelo膜の保磁力は1000A/m以上であった。

(実施例 4)実施例 3 において、CoggFelip に 要権例 4 に で 第 1 および第 2 の方法で最密面配向を強くすることにより保磁力が低下することが分かった。次に、CoggFelip を 4 を 4 を 4 を 4 で 4 を 4 で 4

【0132】ガラス基板上にA1含有 $Co_{90}$ F $e_{10}10$  nm/Cu5nm/A1含有 $Co_{90}$ F $e_{10}10$ nmの積層膜を実施例1と同様の成膜条件で形成した。この場合の $Co_{90}$ F $e_{10}$ 膜中のA1元素添加量と $Co_{90}$ F $e_{10}$ 膜の保磁力との関係を図12に示す。図12から分かるように、積層膜においてもA1元素の添加により保磁力を低下させることができることが分かる。また、実施例2に示した第2から第4の方法でも同様に積層膜における $Co_{90}$ F $e_{10}$ 膜の最密面の配向を強くすることができた。

【0133】次に、積層膜におけるCognFell膜の保磁力の最密面ピーク強度依存性を図13に示す。図13から分かるように、単層膜の場合同様に最密面ピーク強度が大きくなるほど、保磁力が低下しているが確認できる。上記構造の場合、ピーク強度は $10^2$  (a.u.) と弱く、保磁力は $10^3$  A/m程度である。この場合において、CognFellにAlを1原子%程度加えた材料からなる膜を用いることにより、保磁力は数百A/m程度に低下した。また、ガラス基板をサファイア基板のC面に代えることにより、 $10^3$  (a.u.) 以上のピーク強度と100 A/m以下の良好な保磁力が得られた。なお、このときの半値幅は $7^\circ$  以下であった。

【0134】(実施例5)  $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ CAl以外の添加元素を加えて保磁力を調べた。この場合、添加元素として、Ta、Pd、Zr、Hf、Mo、Ti、Nb、Cu、Rh、Re、In B、Ru Ir 、Wを用いたときにも保磁力の低下が認められた。また、それらの元素の組み合わせ、例えばTaとPd、NbとPd、ZrとNbを添加しても保磁力の低下が確認できた。一例として、Ta含有 $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 10nm/Cu5nm/Ta含有 $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 10nm0積層膜の構造において、Ta0添加量と保磁力との関係を図14に示す。図14nm5nm

るように、この場合においてもTa元素の添加により保 磁力が低下したことが確認できる。

【0135】(実施例6)以上はCoFe膜に関して(111)高配向を実現した実施例であるが、CoFe膜に限られず、CoFeNi膜、CoNi膜等を用いても同様な効果が見られた。その実施例を下記表2に示す。表2は、(1)強磁性膜の組成、(2)基板の種類、(3)基板とスピンバルブ膜との間の下地膜をパラメータとして作製した図1と同様の構造(FeMn膜と

接する側はCoFe 膜のままである)を有するスピンバルブ膜における(111)ピークのロッキングカーブ半値幅 $\Delta\theta_{50}$ 、容易軸方向のHc、 $\Delta R/R$ を示したものである。比較のため、表 2 と同じ組成の強磁性膜のスピンバルブ膜を下地膜なしにガラス基板上に作製した場合の結果を表 2 に併記する。

【0136】 【表2】

組成	基板	下地	Δθ <sub>50</sub>	Нс	∆R/R
			()	(A/m)	<b>(%)</b>
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	ガラス	なし	20UL	680	5. 5
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	サファイアC面	なし	3. 8	440	5. 9
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	ガラス	TilOnm	6. 5	240	5. 0
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	ガラス	Ge15nm	4.1	190	5. 8
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	ガラス	Si14nm	5. 8	210	5. 8
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	なし	20RF	270	6. 1
$Co_{20}Fe_{15}Ni_{65}$	サファイアC畜	なし	4. 8	210	6. 9
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	Ti 7nm	6. 7	120	5.8
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	Ge15nm	5. 3	70	6.8
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	Si14nm	5. 5	90	6. 2
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	なし	20AF	3500	8.0
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	Ti 10nm	9. 1	400	6. 9
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	Ge15nm	6. 0	210	8.6
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	Si 14nm	5. 8	190	7.1

表2から分かるように、CoFe膜に限らずCoFeNi膜やCoNi膜でも、ガラス基板への直接成膜に比べて、サファイアと面基板上あるいは<math>Ti, Si,  $Ge等からなる下地膜を用いることにより、<math>\Delta\theta$  50<7°の良好な(111)配向膜を得ることができ、その結果Hcが低下し、高い抵抗変化率が実現できる。

【0137】しかし、Ti等からなる下地膜やサファイアと面基板により(111)高配向の(MInm厚/Culnm厚)16人工格子膜を作製したところ(M:Co20Ni80、Co20Fe15Ni65)、△R/Rは2%以下の著しく小さな値を示しRKKY的反強磁性結合特有の高い飽和磁界が消失した。(111)配向するとRKKY的反強磁性結合が得られないので抵抗変化率が低下したことが分かる。したがって、スピンパルブ膜に限らずRKKY的な反強磁性結合を用いないタイプ(保磁力の差を用いたいわゆ

る非結合型人工格子膜(第14回日本応用磁気学会学術 講演概要集、1990年、177頁)等)で(111)高配向 を実現すると高い抵抗変化率と良好な軟磁性が両立しや すい。

【0138】また、これに加えてFeMnに接する強磁性膜も下側磁性膜と同じ組成の膜に置き換えても同様の効果が得られることが確認された。

【0139】(実施例7)ガラス基板上(下地膜なし)にTi5nm/FeMn8nm/CoFe8nm/Cu2.2 nm/強磁性膜8nmのスピンパルブ膜を実施例1と同様の条件で成膜した。このとき、下部強磁性膜に加える非磁性添加元素と容易軸方向の抵抗変化率とHcの関係を下記表3に示す。

[0140]

【表3】

組成	磁速作(智慧前)	Hc (A/m)
	(%)	
Co89. 2Feg. 8 Al 1. 0	8. 5	320
Co89 0Feg 0 Al 2 0	7. 7	70
Co87. 3Fe7. 7 Al 5. 0	5. 1	60
Co <sub>86, 2</sub> Fe <sub>7, 3</sub> A1 <sub>6, 5</sub>	2. 9	100
Co86Fe7 Re7	6. 7	180
Co <sub>87</sub> Fe <sub>6</sub> Zr <sub>7</sub>	6. 1	120
Co <sub>87</sub> Fe <sub>7</sub> Ta <sub>6</sub>	5. 5	120
Co <sub>81</sub> Fe <sub>9</sub> Ta <sub>10</sub>	1. 5	9 5
Co <sub>83</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub> Rf <sub>7</sub>	6. 8	230
Co <sub>79</sub> Fe <sub>8</sub> Pd <sub>13</sub>	8. 8	2050
Co <sub>85</sub> Fe <sub>7</sub> Pd <sub>8</sub>	8. 0	1700
Co <sub>78</sub> Fe <sub>7</sub> Cu <sub>15</sub>	7. 9	380
Co <sub>75</sub> Fe <sub>7</sub> Pd <sub>9</sub> Cu <sub>9</sub>	7. 7	440
Co <sub>17</sub> Fe <sub>13</sub> Ni <sub>57</sub> Pd <sub>13</sub>	5. 5	180
Co <sub>19</sub> Fe <sub>14</sub> Ni <sub>60</sub> Pd <sub>7</sub>	5. 9	180
Co <sub>16</sub> Fe <sub>12</sub> Ni <sub>55</sub> Pd <sub>9</sub> Cu <sub>8</sub>	5. 3	8 0
Co <sub>17</sub> Fe <sub>13</sub> Ni <sub>59</sub> Hf <sub>11</sub>	5. 0	120
Co <sub>19</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>60</sub> Hf <sub>6</sub>	5. 7	120
Co <sub>81</sub> Fe <sub>g</sub> Au <sub>10</sub>	7. 5	410
<sup>Co</sup> 83 <sup>Fe</sup> 10 <sup>Ag</sup> 7	7. 6	350
Co <sub>55</sub> Fe <sub>5</sub> Pd <sub>40</sub>	7. 3	800
Co <sub>55</sub> Fe <sub>5</sub> Cu <sub>40</sub>	7. 0	280

表3から分かるように、ガラス基板に成膜した非磁性元 素を添加しない膜に比べてHcが低下した。Al, Ta 等の添加ではHcの低下が顕著であるが、大量に添加す ると抵抗変化率が大幅に低下した。A1では6.5原子 %未満、Taでは10原子%未満で、NiFeからなる スピンバルブ膜を上回る5%以上の抵抗変化率と低Hc を両立できることが分かる。なお、CoFeにAIまた はTaを添加すると、X線回折において最密面ピーク強 度が増加した。一方、Cu, Au, Ag, Pd等は、H c低減効果がAlまたはTaほど顕著ではないが、10 原子%以下の大量の添加でも抵抗変化率の低下が見られ ない。CoFeへのCu、Au、Ag、Pd等の添加で もX線回折における最密面ピーク強度が増加した。これ らHcの低下には、X線回折における最密面ピーク強度 が添加元素により向上したことから、前述した結晶配向 性の向上が起因していると考えられる。これに加えて、 添加元素による結晶磁気異方性の低減もHcの低下に起 因している可能性もある。

【0141】さらに、65℃95%RHの恒温恒湿槽に 100時間放置して単層の各強磁性膜(100nm厚)に ついて耐食性を調べたところ、Pdを7原子%以上添加 した膜では変色はなかったが、非磁性元素を添加しない CoFe膜、Co20Ni80膜、Co20Fe15Ni65膜や A1を6. 5原子%添加した膜、Taを6原子%添加し た膜等は変色が見られた。すなわち、Pdの添加は、耐 食性を改善する効果を発揮する。Pdのみの添加ではH cの低下があまり顕著ではないが、Pdを例えばCuと 共に添加すると、高い抵抗変化率と耐食性を保って軟磁 気特性のさらなる改善が可能になる。さらに、サファイ アC面基板やアモルファス金属下地膜、fcc格子の下 地膜を用いると、Pdのみの添加でもHcが80A/m 未満にまで低下し、さらに、Pdの40at%までのPd 濃度範囲で~10%の高い抵抗変化率を示した。しかし ながら、同じ貴金属で耐食性改善に効果的であると予想 されるPtを添加すると、HcがPtを添加しない膜以 上に増加した。このため、軟磁気特性の観点からPtの 添加は好ましくない。

【0142】(実施例8)表面粗さがR<sub>a</sub>=2m以下の 熱酸化Si基板表面をSH(硫酸と過酸化水素の混合 液)処理により清浄化した後、この基板を真空装置内に 載置して、 $1 \times 10^{-9}$ Torr以下まで排気した。真空装置内の水および酸素は、質量分析器および露点計によって管理した。以上の手順が終了した後、装置内に超高純度Arガスを導入して、装置内の真空度を $1 \times 10^{-4}$ Torrとし、ECRイオン源内部において2.  $45\,\text{GHz}$ のマイクロ波放電を発生させて加速したイオンピームによりスパッタリングを行い、図 $15\,\text{に示すように}$ 、熱酸化Si基板 $15\,0\,\text{上に第}1\,\text{の下地膜}15\,1\,\text{として}$ 、非晶質Si膜を膜厚 $5\,\text{nm}$ で成膜した。その後、真空を保ちながら連続して、第 $1\,\text{o}$ 下地膜 $15\,1\,\text{hm}$ 2の下地膜 $15\,2\,\text{c}$ して、Cu-Ni合金を膜厚 $2\,\text{nm}$ で成膜した。

【0144】なお、強磁性膜153,155におけるCoFe系合金膜の組成物としては、大きな抵抗変化率(日本応用磁気学会誌:16.313(1992))および軟磁気特性の観点からComFemetry

【0145】このようにして得たスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子の結晶性、磁気特性および抵抗変化率を測定したところ、СоГе合金膜のX線回折による半値幅は1°であり、軟磁気特性を示す物性の一つである保磁力は0.1〇eであった。また、この素子を用いて測定した磁気抵抗変化率は、約10%という高い値を示した。

【0146】また、比較のため、同じ処理を施した基板を真空装置内に載置し、1×10-7Torr以下まで排気した後、通常のArガスを2×10-3Torrまで導入し、その基板表面に非晶質Si膜を成膜することなく、Cu膜を下地膜として直接成膜し、その表面に実施例8と同一構成のスピンバルブ構造の積層膜を作製した。さらに、この積層膜上にCu電極を形成して、磁気抵抗効果素子とした。この積層膜は、通常の13.56MHzにて励起された2極スパッタリング法によって形成した。

【0147】この磁気抵抗効果素子の結晶性、磁気特性および抵抗変化率を測定したところ、CoFe合金膜のX線回折による半値幅は7°であり、軟磁気特性を示す物性の一つである保磁力は1.5Oeであった。また、この素子を用いて測定した磁気抵抗変化率は約5%であった。

【0148】(実施例9)表面粗さがR<sub>a</sub>=2nm以下のサファイヤ基板を表面清浄化した後、この基板を真空装置内に載置し、1×10-9Torr以下まで排気した。真空

装置内の水および酸素は、質量分析器および露点計によって管理した。以上の手順が終了した後、電子ピーム蒸着源を用いた超高真空蒸着法によって、第1の下地膜として、非晶質CuTi膜を膜厚3nmで成膜した。その後、真空を保ったまま連続して、励起周波数100MHzの超高真空RFスパッタリングを用いて、第2の下地膜としてFeMn合金膜を膜厚2nmで成膜した。

【0149】次に、上記下地膜上に、Ti5nm/FeMn8nm/(Co81Feg))Pd108nm/Cu2.2nm/(Co81Feg))Pd108nm/Gu2.2nm/(Co81Feg))Pd108nmの構成を有するスピンバルブ構造の積層膜を全て励起周波数100MHz の超高真空RFスパッタリングを用いて形成し、さらにこの積層膜上にCu電極を形成して、スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。

【0150】このようにして得たスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子の結晶性、磁気特性および抵抗変化率を実施例8と同様に測定したところ、CoFe膜のX線回折による半値幅は1.5°であり、軟磁気特性を示す物性の一つである保磁力は1Oeであった。また、同素子を用いて測定した磁気抵抗変化率は、約12%という高い値を示した。

【0151】(実施例10)図16に示すように、支持基板30上にCoZrNb等からなる高抵抗非晶質層31を形成し、その上にCoFe合金等からなる強磁性膜32、とい等よりなる非磁性膜33、強磁性膜32、およびFeMn等からなる交換バイアス層34を約4kA/mの静磁界中で順次形成し、交換バイアス層34上にリード35を形成して磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。なお、各層は4元スパッタ装置で下記表4に示す成膜条件で成膜した。

[0152]

【表4】

成膜条件

	アモルファス層	強性質	帕爾	交換ペイアス層
ターゲット	CoZrNb	CoFe	Cu	Felin
雖其效	8×10 <sup>-5</sup> Pa			
スパッタ狂	0.4 Pa			
<b>拟勒</b>	400 <b>₹</b>	300₩	80¥	300W
膜厚	10nm	8nn	3nm	140nm

FeMn側のCoFeの膜厚は4.5mmとした。

この磁気抵抗効果素子の磁気特性を調べ、図17および図18にそのM-Hカーブ(磁化-磁界カーブ)を示す。なお、図17は容易軸方向のM-Hカーブ、図18は困難軸方向のM-Hカーブを示す。

【0153】図17から分かるように、FeMnに固着されていない側のCoFe膜の保磁力Hc(図中a)は約500A/mとなり、通常のCoFe単層膜のHc約1600A/mに比べ著しく低い値を示した。さらに信

号磁界入力側である困難軸方向についても、図18から分かるように、FeMnに固着されていない側のCoFe膜の保磁力Hc(図中b)が約600A/mとなり、通常のCoFe単層膜のHc約1600A/mに比べ著しく低い値を示した。

【0154】また、この磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化特性を調べ、図19にそのR-Hカーブ(抵抗-磁界カープ)を示す。図19から分かるように、抵抗変化率△R/Rは従来のCo系スピンバルブ膜と同程度の約9%の高い抵抗変化率となった。また、FeMnに固着されていない側のCoFe膜の保磁力Hc(図中c)は図17から予想されるように約500A/mの低い値となった。

【0155】本実施例では、交換バイアス層として下e Mn膜を用いているが、NiO等の反強磁性膜を用いてもよいし、また(Co/Cu)n等の構造を有する人工格子膜を用いても良好な特性が得られることが確認された。さらに、本実施例では、高抵抗アモルファス層としてCoZrNb膜を用いているが、その他に微小な結晶のFeZr膜、FeZrN膜、CoZrN膜、FeTaC膜、あるいはNiFeX膜(X:Rh,Nb,Zr,Hf,Ta,Re,Ir,Pd,Pt,Cu,Mo,Mn,W,Ti,Cr,Au,またはAg)等を用いてもよい。特に、fcc相の微結晶膜(Co系窒化膜、Co系炭化膜、NiFeX膜)では、fcc相(111)配向を促進する効果も相乗し、さらにHcが容易軸方向で~250A/mに低下し、抵抗変化率が10%に向上した。

【0156】比較のために、高抵抗アモルファス層を設けないで支持基板上に後述する図23と同様な強磁性膜、中間層、強磁性膜、交換パイアス層を順次積層してなる磁気抵抗効果素子の磁気特性を調べ、そのMーHカーブを図20および図21に示す。なお、図20は容易軸方向のMーHカーブ、図21は困難軸方向のMーHカーブを示す。また、成膜条件は前記表3と同様とした。【0157】図20から分かるように、FeMnに固着されていない側のCoFe膜の保磁力Hc(図中d)は約2000A/mとなり、通常のCoFe単層膜のHcと同様に高い値を示した。さらに、困難軸方向のいても、図21に示すように、FeMnに固着されていない側のCoFe膜の保磁力Hc(図中e)は約1400A/mとなり、通常のCoFe単層膜のHcと同様に高い値を示し、必気抵抗効果素子としては不充分であった。【0158】(実施例11)図22に示すように、支持

【0158】(実施例11)図22に示すように、支持基板30上にCu等からなる厚さ約5mmの下地膜36を形成し、さらにその上に交換パイアス層34、強磁性膜32、非磁性膜33、強磁性膜32、および高抵抗アモルファス層31を順次形成し、高抵抗アモルファス層31上にリード35を形成して磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。なお、成膜条件は上記表3と同様にした。

【0159】図22に示す構造、すなわち高抵抗アモルファス層を交換バイアス層よりも上層として形成する場合においても、低いHcを得ることができた。また、アモルファス層が高抵抗であるため、この層が最上層となってもシャント効果による磁気抵抗変化率の低下はなかった。なお、この場合には、FeMnの結晶配向制御のために下地膜を設けることが望ましい。

【0160】(実施例12)支持基板41上にCoPtCr膜42を厚さ8nmで成膜し、その上にレジスト43を塗布した後、所望のパターンにレジスト43をパターニングし、図23(A)に示すように、イオンミーリング等によりエッチングした。この際、CoPtCrのテーパ角Xは90°に近い方が望ましい。

【0161】次に、図25 (B) に示すように、エッチング後のレジスト43は除去せず、この状態でCoFe合金からなる強磁性膜44、Cu等からなる非磁性膜45、強磁性膜44、および高抵抗アモルファス層46を順次形成してスピンバルブ構造の磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。この際、レジスト43のテーパ角Yは90°に近い方が望ましい。

【0162】次に、レジスト43を除去した後に高抵抗アモルファス層46上にリード47を形成した。なお、このリード47は、レジスト43を除去する前に形成してもよい。このように作製することにより、図25

(C) に示すように、界面状態に敏感なスピンバルブ構造を特性劣化を伴わずに作製することできる。

【0163】上記構造のように、FeMn等からなる交換パイアス層を磁化固着膜として用いることなく、高保磁力膜を用いることができる。高保磁力膜の材料としては、下地膜を用いなくても適当な面内磁気異方性を発揮できる材料を用いることが望ましい。そこで、本実施例では、この特性を満足するCoPtCr膜を高保磁力膜として用いた。

【0164】(実施例13)図24に示すように、支持基板30上に高抵抗アモルファス層31、強磁性膜32、非磁性膜33、強磁性膜32、および高抵抗アモルファス層31を順次積層し、最上層の高抵抗アモルファス層31上にリード35を形成して磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。

【0165】図24に示す構造のように、磁化固着膜であるFeMnからなる交換パイアス層を用いず、センス電流により発生する磁界または形状による反磁界の効果による自己パイアス効果を利用して、強磁性膜32間での反強磁性的磁化配列を実現してもよい。

【0166】この場合、センス電流により発生する磁界が膜幅方向(図中g方向)において、強磁性膜32を挟んで上下で反対方向となるように加わるようにし、さらに、膜幅方向の反磁界を低減するために2つの強磁性膜32は互いに反強磁性的に結合するようにする。その結果、交換パイアス層がなくても2つの強磁性膜32同士

が反強磁性的に結合できる。したがって、信号磁界Hsを膜長手方向(図中f方向)に加えると2つの強磁性膜32の磁化は回転して膜長手方向に揃い強磁性的な結合となる。その結果、スピン依存散乱に起因した大きな△R/Rを得ることができる。

【0167】(実施例14)図25に示すように、熱酸化Si基板160上に、高抵抗強磁性膜161としてCoCr合金膜をイオンピームスパッタ法によって膜厚1nmで成膜した。次に、高抵抗磁性膜161上に、第1の強磁性膜162としてCoFe合金膜を厚さ3nmで、非磁性膜163としてCu膜を厚さ2nmで、第2の強磁性膜164としてCoFe合金膜を厚さ3nmで順次成膜し、スピンパルプ型の積層膜を形成した。

【0168】この後、上記積層膜上に、反強磁性膜165としてFeMn膜を厚さ15mで形成した。その上に、必要に応じて保護膜166を形成し、さらに電極167a, 167b (間隔:  $10\mu m$ ) を形成することによって、スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子168を作製した。

【0169】このようにして得たスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化率を測定したところ、室温で14%という高い値を示した。

【0170】比較として、高抵抗強磁性膜161を形成しない以外は実施例14と同様にして、スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。このスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子の特性を実施例14と同様にして評価したところ、室温での抵抗変化率は12%であった。

【0171】(実施例16) サファイア基板上に、第1の強磁性膜として $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 合金膜、非磁性膜としてCu膜、第2の強磁性膜として $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 合金膜、反強磁性膜としてFeMn膜を順に形成した。この際、第1および第2の強磁性膜の厚さ( $d_{FeCo}$ )を変化させて、抵抗変化率( $\Delta\rho/\rho_0$ )を測定した。その結果を図26に示す。なお、第1および第2の強磁性膜の厚さは同一とし、Cu 膜の膜厚は2. 2nm、FeMn 膜の膜厚は15nmとした。また、上記磁気抵抗効果素子においては、反強磁性膜上に必要に応じて、耐食性等に優れたTa、Ni、Ni Cr等の保護膜を介して電極を形成する。図26から分かるように、 $d_{FeCo}$ が5nm以下でMR 効果が増大していることが分かる。また、 $d_{FeCo}$ =3nm 付近でピークをとり、 $2\sim4$ nmが好ましい範囲となる。

【0172】強磁性膜/非磁性膜(金属薄膜)/強磁性膜のサンドイッチ構造の厚さが薄くなってくると、金属薄膜と接していない面での電子散乱が大きくなり、抵抗のサイズ効果が表れる。サンドイッチ構造の比抵抗の変動分( $\Delta \rho$ )は、サンドイッチ構造のトータルの膜厚をt、平均自由行程を $1_0$ とすると、 $\Delta \rho$ は $1_0$ /tに比例する。諸条件で変化するが、図26からも明らかなように、Co系強磁性膜を用いた場合、強磁性膜厚は $5\,\mathrm{m}$ 以下とすることが良好なMR効果が得る上で好ましい。

【0173】すなわち、強磁性膜の金属薄膜と接していない方の面に、低抵抗例えば $30\mu\Omega$ cm以下の比抵抗をもった材料が接している場合、電子はその界面を通り抜け、 $30\mu\Omega$ cm以下の比抵抗をもった材料の中に流れてしまい、有効な表面散乱が起こりにくくなる。このため、有効な表面散乱を引き起こし、サイズ効果を利用するためには、 $30\mu\Omega$ cm以上の材料とするか、接している材料の膜厚を5nm以下とすることが有効である。

【0174】サイズ効果を利用し、大きなMR効果を得るためには、Co系強磁性膜の膜厚は5m以下にすることが好ましい。このとき、中間金属薄膜としては、Cu、Ag、Au等の比抵抗の小さい金属を用いることが望ましく、中間金属薄膜の膜厚はサイズ効果を利用するために、5mmより薄いことが好ましい。また、両強磁性膜の膜厚が大きく異なっている場合には、両強磁性膜における表面散乱の効果が異なってしまうため、磁気抵抗変化率は小さくなってしまう。このため、両強磁性膜の厚さの比は、1:1~1:2の間にあることが望ましい。

【0175】(実施例16)図27に示すように、サファイア基板160上に非磁性膜161としてCuPd合金膜をRFスパッタ法によって厚さ2mmで成膜した。次に、非磁性膜161上に、第1の強磁性膜162としてCoFe合金膜を厚さ1mmで、非磁性膜163としてCu膜を厚さ2mmで、第2の強磁性膜164としてCoFe合金膜を厚さ3nmで順次成膜し、スピンバルプ型の積層膜を形成した。

【0176】この後、上記積層膜上に、反強磁性膜165としてFeMn膜を厚さ15mmで形成した。その上に、必要に応じて保護膜166を形成し、さらに電極167a,167bを形成することによって、スピンバルプ型磁気抵抗効果素子171を作製した。

【0177】この磁気抵抗効果素子では、反強磁性膜165により、第2の強磁性膜164には一方向異方性が与えられているため、低磁場中では磁化は一方向に固定されたまま動かない。これに対して、第1の強磁性膜162は、低磁場中でも磁場の方向に磁化を向ける。よって、外部磁化を変化させることにより、2つの強磁性膜の磁化の成す角度を自由に制御することができる。なお、反強磁性膜165は、第2の強磁性膜164に有効な一方向異方性を与える上で、1~50m程度の厚さとすることが好ましい。

【0178】このようにして得たスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子171の抵抗変化率を測定したところ、第1の強磁性膜162の厚さを1mと薄くしているにもかかわらず、室温で8%という高い値を示した。また、上記スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子171を、幅 $2\mu$ m×長さ $80\mu$ mの微細形状に加工してCuリード間を $2\mu$ mに規定した狭トラック幅の高密度磁気記録の再生に用いたところ、バルクハウゼンノイズを除去することがで

きた。

【0179】比較として、非磁性膜161を形成しない以外は実施例17と同様にして、スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。このスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子の特性を実施例17と同様にして評価したところ、抵抗変化率は室温で3%と小さい値しか得られなかった。

【0180】また、第1の強磁性膜162の膜厚を6mとする以外は実施例16と同様にして、スピンパルプ型磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。このスピンパルプ型磁気抵抗効果素子の特性を実施例16と同様にして評価したところ、抵抗変化率は室温で6%得ることができたが、実施例16と同様な再生微細素子により高密度記録(狭トラック幅)の再生を行ったところ、反磁界によるバルクハウゼンノイズが観測された。

【0181】(実施例17)図28に示すように、熱酸化Si基板160上に平均自由行程が長い薄膜172として、キャリア濃度が1020cm-3となるようにTeをドープしたGaAs膜をMBE法により厚さ10nmで成膜した。次に、TeドープGaAs膜172上に第1の強磁性膜162としてCoFe合金膜を厚さ1nmで、非磁性膜163としてCu膜を厚さ2nmで、第2の強磁性膜164としてCoFe合金膜を厚さ4nmで順次成膜し、スピンバルプ型の積層膜を形成した。

【0182】この後、上記積層膜上に、反強磁性膜16

予備排気

Arスパッタガス圧

髙周波投入電力

スパッタリング速度

このようにして作製した $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜のHc(困難軸方向)と $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜の膜厚の関係を $Bo_{20}$ ので示す。また、 $Bo_{20}$ には、比較のためガラス基板上にCu下地膜を設けないで直接 $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜を形成したものも示した。なお、保磁力Hcは振動型磁力計により測定した。

【0187】図29から分かるように、Cu下地膜を設けない通常の $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜では、膜厚20nm以下では2000A/m以上の高いHcを示した。一方、Cu下地膜を設けると、膜厚20nmの $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜ではHcの低下は僅かであったが、膜厚10nm以下では $400\sim90$  A/mにHcが大幅に低下した。このように、ガラス基板と $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜との間にCu下地膜を設けることにより、 $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜のHcを低減できることが分かった。特に、Cu下地膜の膜厚は、1原子層以上であれば上記のHc 低減の効果が認められた。なお、Cu下地膜上にまったく同様にCo膜を形成した場合はCoFe 膜の場合ほどHc の低下は認められなかった。

【0188】 (実施例19) ガラス基板上に厚さ5~6

5としてFeMn膜を厚さ15mmで形成した。その上に、必要に応じて保護膜166を形成し、さらに電極167a,167bを形成することによって、スピンパルプ型磁気抵抗効果素子173を作製した。

【0183】このようにして得たスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化率を測定したところ、室温で18%という高い値を示した。また、上記スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子を高密度磁気記録の再生に用いて、105 A/cm²という電流密度のセンス電流における出力信号電圧を測定したところ、1mV<sub>p-p</sub>という良好な値が得られた。

【0184】比較として、TeドープGaAs膜172を形成しない以外は、実施例17と同様にして、スピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。このスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子の特性を実施例17と同様にして評価したところ、抵抗変化率は室温で2%と小さい値しか得られなかった。

【0185】(実施例18)ガラス基板上に厚さ10mのCu膜を下地膜として形成し、その上にCo90Fe10膜を形成した。Cu膜およびCo90Fe10膜は、RF2極スパッタリング法により成膜した。なお、スパッタリングは、成膜中に永久磁石により約4000A/mの一方向磁界を基板近傍に加え、以下に示すスパッタリング条件により行った。

[0186]

1×10-4Pa以下

0. 4 P a

CoFe: 300-500W

Cu : 160W

CoFe: 0. 5-1nm/s

Cu:1nm/s

nmのCu下地膜を形成し、さらにCu下地膜上に $Cog_0$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜、厚さ2nmのCu中間層、および $Cog_0$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜を順次形成した。なお、これらの膜の成膜条件は実施例18と同様とした。

【0189】この積層膜(Cu/CoFe/Cu/CoFe)におけるHc(困難軸方向)と $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜の 膜厚の関係を図30を示す。また、図30には、図29と同様にガラス基板上にCu下地膜を設けないで直接 $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜を形成したものも示した。

【0190】図30から分かるように、Cu下地膜を設けない積層膜では、単位Co90Fe10膜の膜厚が5nm以上でHcは急激に増加するが膜厚3nm以下でHcが800A/mである。このように、単にCu中間層を設けるだけでもHcを低減できる。さらに、この積層膜にCu下地膜を設けることによりHcはさらに低下でき、単位Co90Fe10膜の膜厚が7nm以下で220~400A/mの低いHcが得られることが分かる。したがって、Cu下地膜とCu中間層を用いたCo90Fe10積層膜では、実施例18の場合よりもHcを大幅に低減できる。

【0191】また、Cu5nm/Co90Fe102.2nm/Cu2nm/Co90Fe102.2nm/Cu2nm/Co90Fe102.2nmの積層膜の磁化曲線(容易軸方向)を図<math>31に示す。図31から分かるように、磁界が0でも残留磁化が90%以上であり、この2つのCo90Fe10強磁性膜の磁化は反強磁性的ではなく強磁性的な磁化挙動を示すことが分かる。

【0192】(実施例20)  $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜の単位膜厚を1.5mとし、Cu膜の単位膜厚を1.5mとして、(CoFe/Cu) n膜を実施例18に示す成膜条件で作製し、そのHcと積層回数nとの関係を調べた。その結果を図32に示す。この場合、ガラス基板上に $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜、Cu膜の順に積層したものと、Cu膜、 $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜の順に積層したもの(第1層のCuは下地膜に相当すると見なされる)について調べた。

【0193】図32から分かるように、積層回数が2の場合において、 $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜を先に形成したときは、Hcは650A/mと若干高いが、積層回数が4~8の場合においては、 $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜が先でもCu膜が先でもHcは100~300A/mと低い。これは、積層回数が増えるにしたがってCu下地膜の効果が薄らぎ、Cu下地膜(第1層のCu膜)の有無に拘らずHcが低くなるからであると考えられる。なお、この場合の磁化曲線も、図31と同様に強磁性的な結合を示す形状であった。

【0194】なお、この積層膜は、断面透過電子顕微鏡 観察やX線回折曲線の回折ピーク半値幅の測定から、結晶粒径が大きい、すなわちCu膜とCogoFelo膜との 界面で連続したエピタキシ的に結晶が成長していることが分かった。したがって、この積層膜は、非磁性膜と強磁性膜との界面での結晶成長遮断効果を利用した微結晶効果により軟磁性を発揮せしめている従来のFe/C等の多層膜とは異なり、余分な抵抗増大がないので、スピン依存散乱を利用した磁気抵抗効果膜への応用が可能である。

【0195】(実施例21) (Co90Fe10/Cu) n 膜では、Cu膜厚に応じてCu膜に隣接する強磁性膜の磁化が反強磁性的に結合したり、強磁性的に結合したりすることが知られている。図33に(Co90Fe10(1 nm)/Cu)16における困難軸方向のHs(飽和磁界)と単位Cu膜の膜厚との関係を示す。Cu膜の膜厚を1nm、2nm近傍に設定すると、隣接する強磁性膜間の反強磁性結合に起因する大きなHs(12~240kA/m)を示す。また、容易軸方向でも図34に示すような残留磁化が大幅に低下した反強磁性的結合を表わす磁化曲線を示す。一方、それ以外の膜厚では、図31に示した磁化曲線と同様にCo90Fe10の誘導磁気異方性に相当する程度のHs(1000~2000A/m)を示し、また、容易軸方向の磁化曲線も残留磁化が90%以上であり、反強磁性結合がない特性を示した。

【0196】また、図33から分かるように、膜厚を例

えば1.5nm程度の中間値に設定することにより強磁性的結合が得られることが分かる。強磁性的結合であれば、Hsが低いために磁気ヘッド等の磁気センサ応用上重要である困難軸方向の透磁率を高くできる。このように、本実施例においてCu膜の膜厚は、従来の巨大磁気抵抗効果を示す人工格子膜とは異なり、反強磁性結合しない中間値であることが望ましい。

【0197】(実施例22)基板50上に実施例18と同様の成膜条件で強磁性積層単位51を形成した。ここで、強磁性積層単位51は、実施例20および実施例21において示した非磁性膜であるCu膜と強磁性膜であるCo90Fe10膜との積層膜をいう。次いで、強磁性積層単位51上に、強磁性積層単位中の非磁性膜と異なる厚みを有する非磁性膜52を形成し、さらにその上に強磁性積層単位51を形成した。次いで、その上にFeMn、NiO、NiCoO等からなる反強磁性膜53を形成し、さらにその上に保護膜54を形成した。この保護膜54は必要に応じて形成する。最後に、エッジ部に電流を供給するために保護膜54上に電極端子55を形成して図35に示す磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。

【0198】ここで、強磁性積層単位51および反強磁性膜53の成膜を一方向磁界中で行うことにより、反強磁性膜53と直接接する強磁性積層単位51に交換バイアスを付与することができる。なお、反強磁性膜53と交換結合する強磁性積層単位51中の強磁性膜の磁化は固着されるので、強磁性積層単位51の代わりに軟磁性が若干低いCoFe単層膜を用いてもよい。また、フェロ結合したCoFe/Cu界面は必ずしも平坦である必要はなく、図36に示すように、Cu膜内に層状のCoFeが混在した状態でも同様な効果を発揮する。

【0199】強磁性積層単位51を(CogoFelo1nm/Cu1.2nm)4膜とし、非磁性膜52を厚さ2.5 nmのCu膜とし、反強磁性膜53を厚さ10nmのFeMn膜とし、保護膜54を厚さ6nmのCu膜とした磁気抵抗効果素子の磁化曲線および抵抗変化特性(磁界方向は容易軸方向)をそれぞれ図37および図38に示す。なお、抵抗は4端子法により測定した。

【0200】図37および図38から分かるように、H >800A/mで2つの強磁性積層単位51の間において磁化が反強磁性的に結合しており、H<500A/mで2つの強磁性積層単位51の間において磁化が強磁性的に結合している。すなわち、H=500 $\sim$ 800A/mの間で磁化が強磁性的結合から反強磁性的結合に変化していることが分かる。このH=500 $\sim$ 800A/mの僅かな磁界領域、すなわち僅かなヒステリシスで抵抗が大きく変化しており、このときの抵抗変化率 $\Delta$ R/R は8%である。

【0201】比較のために、Cog0Fe10単層膜からなる図35に示すスピンパルブ構造の磁気抵抗効果素子 (強磁性積層単位51をCog0Fe10単層膜に置き換え たもの)の磁化曲線および抵抗変化特性をそれぞれ図3 9および図40に示す。

【0202】図39および図40から分かるように、図38の抵抗変化と比べて磁化曲線にヒステリシスが大きく、その結果、抵抗変化特性にも大きなヒステリシスが存在する。また、ΔR/Rは約6.5%であり、図37の抵抗変化よりも小さい値である。

【0203】以上の説明から、本発明の強磁性積層膜を用いたスピンバルブ構造の磁気抵抗効果素子は、軟磁性が良好であり、僅かな磁界で大きな抵抗変化を得られ、さらに強磁性積層単位内部にCog0Fe<sub>10</sub>/Cu界面が

存在するので抵抗変化率が大きいことが分かる。

【0204】以上までは(CoFe/Cu) n積層膜の実施例について詳しく述べたが、このスピンバルブ構造は他の強磁性膜(例えば、NiFe, NiFeCo, Co等)と他の非磁性膜(Cu基合金等)との積層においても同様な効果が期待できる。次に、図35におけるスピンバルブ構造において、強磁性積層単位51を種々の強磁性結合多層膜に変えた場合の容易軸方向の抵抗変化率とHcを下記表5に示す。

【0205】 【表5】

強磁性積層単位	Hc(A/m)	抵抗变化率(%)
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub> 1mm算/Cu0.7nm界) <sub>4</sub>	80	6. 9
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub> 1nmF/Cu <sub>80</sub> Ni <sub>20</sub> 0.7nmF) 4	660	7. 9
Co <sub>80</sub> Fe <sub>20</sub> 1nn Cu0.7nn 4	320	6. 3

表5から分かるように、CoFe/Cu以外の組み合わせの強磁性多層膜を用いても単層磁性膜を用いたスピンバルブ膜(表2参照)に比べてHcが低減でき、かつ同等以上の抵抗変化率が実現できることが分かる。

【0206】(実施例23)図35における基板側の強磁性積層単位51として厚さ4nmのCu下地膜と厚さ5nmのCo90Fe10を用い、反強磁性膜53側の強磁性積層単位51に厚さ8nmのCo90Fe10単層膜を用いた場合の磁化曲線および抵抗変化特性をそれぞれ図41(A),図41(B)および図42に示す。

【0207】図41(A)から分かるように、容易軸方向ではHcが800A/m以下と比較的大きい値を示すが、図41(B)から分かるように、困難軸方向では100A/m以下の低い値を示す。また、図42から分かるように、抵抗変化率 $\Delta$ R/Rは容易軸方向で7.2%、困難軸方向で2.8%である。このように困難軸方向で抵抗変化率が低いことは、両強磁性層間でのフェロ結合のために反平行磁化配列が不充分であると考えられ、硬質磁性膜等により反平行磁化配列を促進するバイアス磁界を加えることにより容易軸方向と同程度の $\Delta$ R/Rを得ることができる。すなわち、Cu下地膜とCo90Fe10膜の積層膜を用いても良好な軟磁性と高い $\Delta$ R/Rの両方が得られる。

【0208】(実施例24)基板50上に実施例22において使用した強磁性膜積層単位51と、強磁性膜積層単位51と、強磁性膜積層単位51の中の非磁性層と異なる厚みを有する非磁性膜52とを交互に少なくとも2回以上積層した。さらに、最上層の非磁性膜52上に保護膜54を形成した。この保護膜54は必要に応じて形成する。最後に、エッジ部に電流を供給するための電極端子55を形成して図43に示す磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。強磁性積層単位51を(CogoFe101nm/Cu0.6nm)4膜とし、非磁性層52を厚さ2.2nmのCu膜とし、積層回数nを

8としたものの困難軸方向の磁化曲線と抵抗変化特性を 図44および図45に示す。

【0209】図44および図45から分かるように、飽和磁界Hsは6000A/mと比較的小さな値を示し、Hcは240A/mと小さな値を示す。このとき、抵抗変化率は12%以下であり、抵抗変化が飽和する磁界は磁化曲線における飽和磁界Hsとほぼ一致し、また、ヒステリシスは磁化曲線のHcとほぼ一致する。これにより、僅かな磁界で大きな抵抗変化率を示すことが分かる。

【0210】(実施例25)鏡面状態に加工したMgO基板60の(110)面上に(Co90Fe101mm/Cu1.1nm)16積層膜61を形成した。この積層膜61をメタルマスクを用いて1×8mm²のストライプ状にパターニングした。次いで、積層膜61上にエッジ部に電流を供給するための電極端子62を形成して磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。なお、積層膜61上に保護膜として厚さ5.5nmのCu膜を形成してもよい。また、CoFe系合金膜の組成は、大きな抵抗変化率を示すこと[日本応用磁気学会誌、16.313(1992)]および軟磁気特性の点からCo90Fe10とした。

【0211】この場合、MgO基板60の(110)面上には $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜から形成した。Cu 膜から形成すると、10%以上の大きな抵抗変化を得ることができないからである。図46において、積層膜61に示されている波形線は主成長面の断面を示している。この主成長面が揺らいでいる方向に、MRセンス電流(Is)を流す。

【0212】ここで、積層膜61を成膜する成膜装置としては、多元同時スパッタリング装置を用いた。このスパッタリング装置は、CogoFe10ターゲットをRFスパッタ、CuターゲットをDCスパッタできるような構成になっており、それぞれのターゲット上に交互に直流

バイアスを印加した基板を通過させて成膜するものである。なお、主排気ポンプにはクライオポンプを使用した。この成膜装置を用いて、真空チャンバー内を5×10-7Torr以下にまで排気した後、真空チャンバー内にArガスを導入し、約3mTorrとしてスパッタリングを行った。

【0213】得られた磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化率および結晶構造を調べた。なお、抵抗変化率は、静磁界方向の抵抗変化を四端子法で測定した。このときの電流密度は2.0~2.5 KA/cm²とした。また、結晶構造は、以下の測定条件でX線回折法により $\theta-2\theta$ スキャンおよび主回折面に関するロッキングカープを測定することにより評価した。

【0214】X線回折測定条件

(1)  $\theta - 2\theta \lambda + \nu$ 

 $Cu-K\alpha$ , 40kV, 200mA

スキャン幅:  $2\theta = 2 \sim 100^{\circ}$ 

ステップ幅:0 03°

係数時間 : 0.5秒

(2) ロッキングカーブ

 $Cu-K\alpha$ , 40kV, 200mA

スキャン幅:2 $\theta$ =20~60°

ステップ幅: 0.04°

係数時間 : 0.5秒

図47 (A) および図47 (B) に磁気抵抗効果素子の 積層膜の $\theta-2\theta$ スキャンによるX線回折曲線を示す。 図47 (B) に示すように、 $2\theta=75$ ° 付近に、fc c相 (220) 面反射に相当する強い回折ピークが確認 できる。これにより、X線回折曲線から積層膜の主成長 面は一方向に歪みのあるfcc相 (220) 面であるこ とが分かる。なお、図47 (A) における $2\theta=4$ ° 付 近のピークは、積層周期 ( $\sim2$ . 1 nm) による回折であ る。

【0215】次に、この主成長面に関して、 [100] 軸方向および [110] 軸方向からロッキングカーブを 測定した。その結果を図48(A)および図48(B)に示す。図48(A)には、 [110] 軸方向から測定したロッキングカーブを示す。これより $\theta$  = 38°近傍に一つのピークが確認できる。一方、図48(B)には [100] 軸方向からのロッキングカーブを示す。これより $\theta$  = 33°と41°付近の2つのピークの存在が確認できる。

【0216】図49(A)および図49(B)に図48のロッキングカーブから判断される膜構造の概念図を示す。図49(A)においてうねった層は、主成長面のfcc相(110)面を示す。 $\theta-2\theta$ スキャンX線回折法で測定される平均的な結晶成長面は(110)であるが、この(110)面は[100]軸方向に揺らいでいる。一方、[110]軸方向の揺らぎは極めて小さい。これは、図48(B)に示すロッキングカーブの2つの

ピーク([100] 軸方向測定)と、図48(A)に示す1つのピーク([110] 軸方向測定)に対応する。【0217】図49(B)にこの成長面の法線の膜面内成分分布を示した。この膜面内異方性は、[100] 軸方向の大きな揺らぎにより、[100] 軸方向に大きく、[110] 軸方向に小さい面内分布となっている。後述するように、[110] 軸方向にMRセンス電流を流した場合の抵抗変化率( $\Delta$ R/R)は、約30%であるのに対して、[100] 軸方向に流した場合は、約35%を示す。

【0218】次に、この積層膜の磁気特性を測定した。 その結果に基づく磁気曲線を図50(A)および図50 (B)に示す。図50(A)は外部磁界Hを[100] 軸に平行に印加した場合の磁化曲線を示し、図50

(B) は外部磁界Hを [110] 軸に平行に印加した場合の磁化曲線を示す。なお、磁気抵抗効果素子の磁気特性は、振動型磁力計(VSM)で最大印加磁界1.2MA/mで測定した。また、磁化曲線の磁化量Mは飽和磁化Msを規格化して示した。

【0219】図50(A)および図50(B)から分かるように、[100]軸が磁化容易軸、[110]軸が磁化困難軸である。このとき磁化容易軸の飽和磁界は約240kA/mであり、磁化困難軸の飽和磁界は約960kA/mである。

【0220】このように、本実施例では、基板上に強磁性膜と非磁性膜とを順次少なくとも1回ずつ積層した積層膜を具備し、センス電流の方向が前記積層膜の結晶配向面の揺らぎ方向に沿う方向に設定されていることを特徴とする磁気抵抗効果素子を提供する。

【0221】本実施例において、積層膜の主結晶配向面の法線は、結晶配向面の揺らぎにより膜面内で成分を持ち、その膜面内成分は異方性を有する。あるいは、結晶性の積層膜に発生する面欠陥の法線は、膜面内への揺らぎを持ち、この揺らぎは膜面内で異方性を有する。その異方性が強い方向は、膜成長する原子面において強磁性原子と非磁性原子が混在しやすい方向である。

【0222】その方向に、すなわち膜面内成分による異方性が最も大きくなる方向にセンス電流を流すことにより、電子がスピン依存散乱する確率が高くなる。その結果、磁気抵抗効果素子は、より高い抵抗変化率を示す。【0223】(実施例26)基板に印加するバイアスを変化させて、実施例25と同じ積層膜構造を有する種々の磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。図51に抵抗変化率のバイアス電圧依存性を示す。なお、MgO基板の(110)面においてそれぞれ直交する[100]軸と[110]軸に平行に電流を流して測定した。図51から分かるように、それぞれの軸とも、抵抗変化率のバイアス依存性が弱く、[100]軸で約35%、[110]軸で約30%の値を示す。すなわち、[100]軸のほうが[110]軸よりも抵抗変化率が大きいことが分かる。

【0224】(実施例27)積層膜を(Cu2nm/Co 90Fe<sub>10</sub>1nm)<sub>16</sub>膜とすること以外は実施例25と同様 にして磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。

【0225】このようにCu膜の膜厚を2mに増加させた場合、[100] 軸方向に電流を流した時の抵抗変化率は約25%であり、[110] 軸方向では約19%であった。したがって、Cu膜の膜厚を増加させても、この抵抗変化率の方向依存性は保たれていることが分かる。この場合も、主成長面(fcc相(220)面)のロッキングカーブには、図48(B)に示すように[100] 軸で2つのピーク、図48(A)に示すように[110] 軸で1つのピークが確認された。

【0226】なお、同様の構成でCu膜の膜厚および $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜の膜厚をそれぞれ0.3nmから10nmまで変化させても、ロッキングカーブの傾向は上記と変わらず、 [100] 軸の方が揺らぎが大きい。また、抵抗変化率も [100] 軸のほうが大きい傾向を示した。

【0227】また、同様の構成で積層回数を2から70まで変化させても、ロッキングカープおよび抵抗変化率の傾向は変わらず、[100]軸方向にセンス電流を流すほうが大きな抵抗変化が得られた。

【0228】(実施例28)積層膜を(Ru1nm/CogoFe101nm)16膜とすること以外は実施例26と同様にして磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。

【0229】この磁気抵抗効果素子の $\triangle$ R/Rは、[100]軸方向にセンス電流を流す場合の方が[110]軸方向にセンス電流を流す場合より大きかった。また、Ru膜の膜厚を変化させても前記の傾向が認められた。【0230】この現象は、 $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ 膜の代わりにCo 膜を用いた場合でも確認できた。また、Ru以外にAg、Au、Pd、Pt、Irを積層膜の材料に使用してもMgO基板の(110)面上における軸方向による $\triangle$ R/Rの差が確認できた。

【0231】(実施例29)積層膜を(Cul. 1nm/ NigoFe201.5nm)<sub>16</sub>膜とすること以外は実施例2 5と同様にして磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。

【0232】この磁気抵抗効果素子の積層膜の [100] 軸方向にセンス電流を流した場合、その抵抗変化率は21%であった。一方、 [110] 軸方向にセンス電流を流した場合の抵抗変化率は17%であった。また、この積層膜も $Co_{90}$ Fe $_{10}$ /Cu積層膜の場合同様に、結晶成長面はfcc相(110)面であり、ロッキングカーブ測定から成長面は [100] 軸方向に揺らいでいることが分かった。なお、 $Ni_{80}$ Fe $_{20}$ 膜の膜厚およびCu膜の膜厚を0.5 $_{nm}$ ~50 $_{nm}$ と変化させても同様の傾向を示した。

【0233】また、強磁性膜の材料としてCo、CoFe合金、NiFe合金、Fe、FeCr合金等を用いても、非磁性膜の材料としてCu、Au、Ag、Cr、Ru、CiNi合金等を用いても、積層膜の主成長面が揺

らいでいる結晶軸方向とセンス電流方向が平行であれば 大きな抵抗変化率を示すことが分かった。

【0234】(実施例30) GaAs基板の (110) 面上に厚さ1. 5nmのCo 度、厚さ50nmのGe 膜、および厚さ1. 5nmのAu 膜を形成した。さらに、その上にMBE法を用いて図53に示す (Cu0.9nm/Co90Fe101nm) 20 積層膜を形成した。図中69はCu 膜を示し、71はCo90Fe10膜を示す。さらに、積層膜上に保護膜として厚さ5nmのGe 膜を形成して磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。この積層膜はfcch (111) 面成長を示していた。このとき、センス電流の方向に関係なく、抵抗変化率は約15%を示した。

【0235】次に、Au下地膜の厚さ0.8mmとし、それ以外の構造を上記と同様にして磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。

【0236】得られた2つの磁気抵抗効果素子を透過電子顕微鏡で観察したところ、Au下地膜の厚さが1.5mmのものは、ほぼ格子欠陥がなく、極めて良好な結晶性を有するものであった。一方、Au下地膜の厚さが0.8mmのものは、{111}面配向を示していたが、{100}面が<110>軸方向に滑ったことにより積層欠陥が観察された。また、この磁気抵抗効果素子における<211>軸および<110>軸方向の抵抗変化率を測定したところ、<110>軸方向では約15%であり、<211>方向では17%と増加していた。この結果、方向性を持った欠陥が入ることにより、抵抗変化率のセンス電流の方向依存性が発生することが分かる。

【0237】図53に図52における積層膜の原子配列図を示す。 {100}原子面が<110>方向にずれることによって、電流が<211>方向に流れる場合と、<110>方向に流れる場合で、単位長当り遭遇する界面の数が異なり、<211>方向で多いことが分かる。このような方向性を持つ格子欠陥による生じる伝導電子のスピン依存界面散乱サイト数の結晶軸方向依存性は、上述した積層欠陥の他に双晶欠陥でも発生したことが分かった。以下に、その例について説明する。

【0238】GaAs基板の(100)面上に厚さ3mのAu下地膜を形成し、さらにその上に(Co90Fe101nm/Cu1.1nm)16積層膜を形成した。この積層膜はfcc相(100)面配向を示した。このとき、<111>軸を中心軸として双晶が発生した。積層膜断面を<110>方向から観察した場合の原子配列を図55に示す。図54から分かるように、<111>軸まわりに双晶が発生することにより、<110>方向にCuと、CoもしくはFe原子との界面が現れることが分かる。

【0239】この積層膜の抵抗変化率のセンス電流方向 依存性を<110>軸および<100>軸方向において 測定した。図55に {100} 面成長した積層膜の双晶 面および電流方向と抵抗変化率との相関を示す。図55 から分かるように、抵抗変化率はセンス電流を<110 >軸方向に流したときは18%を示し、<100>軸方向にセンス電流を流したときは16%の値を示す。このように{111}面と大きな角度で交わる<110>軸の抵抗変化率が高く現れた。一方、双晶が発生しなかったときは、抵抗変化率のセンス電流方向依存性は確認できなかった。

【0240】(実施例31)ガラス基板上に(Cu1.1mm/Co81Fe9 Pd101nm)16人工格子膜を形成した。人工格子膜の成膜は、基板に直流バイアスを印加しながら行った。印加する直流バイアスの大きさを変えて抵抗変化率を測定し、基板に印加する直流バイアスの依存性(バイアス依存性)を図56に示す。

【0241】図56から分かるように、直流バイアスを増加させるにしたがって抵抗変化率は増加し、バイアス-50Vでは約28%の極大値を示す。さらに、直流バイアスを大きくした場合には抵抗変化率は減少する。

【0242】直流パイアスを変化させて作製した種々の人工格子膜の結晶性を評価したところ、全ての人工格子膜の主成長面はfcc相(111)面成長であった。ここで、積層周期(2.1nm)から反射された2 $\theta$ =4。 付近に現れる長周期構造反射強度および2 $\theta$ =44。 付近に現れるfcc相(111)面から反射される主成長面のピーク強度について、それぞれのパイアス依存性を図57および図58に示す。

【0243】図57から分かるように、長周期構造反射強度のバイアス依存性については、バイアス-20V程度に若干の極大を示すが、特にバイアスと強い相関があるとは言えない。また、図58から分かるように、fcc相(111)面反射強度のバイアス依存性についても、バイアス-10V付近に若干の極大を示すが、バイアスと強い相関があるとは言えない。

【0244】また、強磁性膜としてCoFe合金系を用いていることにより、スピン依存散乱のパルク散乱が大きくなり、強磁性膜としてCo系膜を用いる場合に比べて界面の構造は敏感でなくなる。なお、強磁性膜としてCo系膜を用いる場合、抵抗変化率は膜構造に大きく依存することが報告されている。

【0245】次に、保磁力(Hc)のパイアス依存性を図59に示す。図59から分かるように、バイアス-50V程度までは200A/m以下の良好な軟磁気特性を示すが、-60V程度から保磁力が増加し始める。したがって、印加する直流パイアスの大きさを選択することにより、抵抗変化率および保磁力の最適条件を選ぶことができる。なお、ガラス基板の代わりにSi基板、セラミック基板、GaAs基板、Ge基板を用いた場合でも、同様にして抵抗変化率と保磁力の最適点を選び出すことができた。

【0246】(実施例32)ここでは、スピン依存散乱能力を有する2つの強磁性膜両者の磁化回転により信号磁界を検出する本発明の実施例について説明する。

【0247】図60に示すように、基板80上に反強磁 性膜の配向制御用の下地膜81、反強磁性膜82、スピ ン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜83、非磁性膜84、 強磁性膜85、および反強磁性膜82を順次形成した。 さらに、最上層の反強磁性膜82上に電極端子86を形 成した。この反強磁性膜82上に必要に応じて保護膜を 形成してもよい。なお、下地膜81の材料は、反強磁性 膜82がFeMnからなる場合にはCu、CuV、Cu Cr等のCu合金や、Pd等の非磁性fcc相またはN i FeやCoFeTa等の磁性fcc相を有する金属が 望ましい。このとき磁性材料のほうが膜厚が薄くても (すなわちシャント分流が少ない)、良好な交換パイア スが付与できる。反強磁性膜82はFeMn、NiO、 PtMn等からなり、その膜厚は5~50mである。強 磁性膜83,85はNiFe、Co、CoFe、NiF e C o 等からなり、その膜厚は 0.5~20mである。 非磁性膜84はCu、Au、Ag等からなり、その膜厚 は0. 5~10nmである。また、反強磁性膜82は、強 磁性膜85の全面に形成する必要はなく、強磁性膜83 の両サイドのエッジ部(電極端子86近傍)にのみ形成 してもよい。

【0248】ここで、少なくとも強磁性膜83の成膜中には一方向の静磁界を図60中のx方向(センス電流方向)に加える。その結果、強磁性膜83に交換結合パイアス磁界がその静磁界方向に加わる。一方、少なくとも反強磁性膜82の成膜中には強磁性膜83の成膜中に加えた磁界方向とは180°異なる方向(マイナスx方向)に静磁界を加える。その結果、強磁性膜83とは180°異なる方向に強磁性膜85に交換結合パイアス磁界が加わる。その結果、2つの強磁性膜83,85の磁化のなす角度は信号磁界0の状態では反平行になる。なお、信号磁界Hsは図中のy方向に加わる。

【0249】反強磁性膜82により強磁性膜83および85に反対方向のバイアス磁界を印加する方法には、次に示す方法もある。2つの反強磁性膜82としてそれぞれ異なるネール温度を有する膜を用い、これらのネール温度以上で静磁界熱処理を行い、降温中に両反強磁性膜82のネール温度の中間の温度で静磁界の方向を180%反転させる。その結果、強磁性膜83,85には反対方向へのバイアス磁界が付与できる。

【0250】本実施例では、従来のスピンバルブ構造の 膜とは異なり、反強磁性膜からの交換パイアスが加わった強磁性膜の磁化回転を利用しているので、その交換パイアス磁界はパルクハウゼンノイズを抑制する程度のあまり強くない磁界であることが望ましい。例えば、適用 ヘッドのトラック幅等に応じて異なるが最大でも5kA/mである。しかしながら、現状のスピンバルブ構造の 膜では、FeMnからなる反強磁性膜による交換パイアス磁界を用いるのが一般的であるが、この場合、FeMn膜とNiFe膜等の強磁性膜とを直接積層すると10

k A/m以上の交換バイアスが生じてしまう。その交換バイアスを低減させるためには、反強磁性膜と強磁性膜の中間に交換バイアス調整用の膜、例えば飽和磁化の低い強磁性膜や非磁性膜を挿入する方法や、図61に示すように、強磁性膜83と85のそれぞれの膜中に非磁性膜87,88を介在させる、すなわち強磁性膜83,85をそれぞれ83aおよび83b,85aおよび85bに分離する方法がある。

【0251】強磁性膜中に非磁性膜を介在させる方法では、反強磁性膜82と接する側の強磁性膜83a,85aには強い交換パイアスが加わるが、反強磁性膜82と接しない側の強磁性膜83b,85bには弱い交換パイアスが加わる。非磁性膜87,88の材料の種類やその膜厚により、反強磁性膜82と接しない側の強磁性膜83b,85bへの交換パイアスの大きさを低減できる。

【0252】ここで、強磁性膜83aおよび83bの磁化のなす角度と、強磁性膜85aおよび85bの磁化のなす角度は、信号磁界による磁化回転で強磁性的な配列から反強磁性的な配列に変化するが、膜中央部における強磁性膜83bおよび85bの磁化のなす角度は、逆に反強磁性的な配列から強磁性的な配列に変化する。したがって、前者と後者のスピン依存散乱は相殺される。そこで、強磁性膜83a,85aおよび非磁性膜87,88の材料としては、スピン依存散乱能力がなく高抵抗のものであることが望ましい。さらに、反強磁性膜82と接する側の強磁性膜83a,85aの厚みは、反強磁性膜82と接しない側の強磁性膜83b,85bの厚みに比べて小さくすることが望ましい。

【0253】上記のようにすることにより、磁界0で強磁性膜83 および85の磁化方向を反平行に揃えることができる。その結果、第1に、磁気ヘッドに適する困難軸方向(図中y方向)に信号磁界を加えた場合でも、両強磁性膜の磁化回転により両強磁性膜間の磁化のなす角度が0~180°まで変化する状態が実現でき、容易軸方向と同程度の高い抵抗変化率を実現できる。第2に、2つの強磁性膜にバイアス磁界が加わるので、両強磁性膜から磁壁を無くすことができ、バルクハウゼンノイズを抑制できる。第3に、センス電流と信号磁界が直交する方式では、従来スピンバルブ構造では相殺されていたNiFe膜等を用いた場合に顕著である通常の磁気抵抗効果とスピン依存散乱による抵抗変化とを兼ねることができ、 $\Delta$ R/Rの増大が期待できる。

【0254】(実施例33)実施例32では、2つの反強磁性膜を用いて両強磁性膜の磁化を反平行にする方法を示した。しかし、必ずしも反強磁性膜のみでパイアス磁界を加える必要はなく、硬質磁性膜からの漏れ磁界や微細形状に加工した場合に生じる反磁界を利用しもよい。次に、その一例について説明する。

【0255】図62から分かるように、基板90上にスピン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜91、非磁性膜9

2、および強磁性膜93を形成した。強磁性膜91,93および非磁性膜92の膜厚は実施例32と同様とした。その上に厚さ2~50mの反強磁性膜94を形成し、強磁性膜93に交換パイアスを印加した。さらに、その上に厚さ10~50mのCoPt、CoNiからなる硬質磁性膜95を形成した。硬質磁性膜95の上に電極端子96を形成した。成膜はすべて静磁界(図中x方向)中で行った。

【0256】次いで、反強磁性膜94による交換パイアス磁界方向と同じ方向に400~800kA/mの磁界を加えて硬質磁性膜95をx方向に着磁した。その結果、硬質磁性膜95のエッジ部からの洩れ磁界により強磁性膜91にはマイナスx方向にパイアス磁界が加わり、強磁性膜91と93の磁化は反平行状態になった。なお、強磁性膜93にも硬質磁性膜95からのパイアス磁界が加わるが、反強磁性膜94からの交換パイアス磁界が加わるが、反強磁性膜94からの交換パイアス磁界の方が強くなるように交換パイアス力を設定することにより、前述した反平行磁化状態を実現できる。なお、硬質磁性膜95と反強磁性膜94を強磁性膜93の全面に形成する必要はなく、強磁性膜93のエッジ部(電極端子96近傍)のみに形成してもよい。

【0257】なお、図62の95には硬質磁性膜の代わりに軟磁性に近い強磁性膜を用いることもできる。この場合、軟磁性に近い強磁性膜は、反強磁性膜94から交換バイアスが加わるように積層する必要がある。強磁性膜95に交換バイアスが加わると、強磁性膜95の磁化を一方向に固着できるので、信号磁界等の外部磁界が加わっても安定した静磁結合バイアス磁界を強磁性膜91に、磁気抵抗効果に不可欠な微細パターン形状に加工することにより強磁性膜93に加わる反強磁性膜94からの交換バイアス磁界と180。異なる方向に付与できる。このとき、強磁性膜95の膜厚や飽和磁化を調整することにより、所望の強度のバイアス磁界を強磁性膜91に付与できる。

【0258】また、強磁性膜95の抵抗率や膜厚を調整することにより、所望のシャント分流動作点パイアスが付与できる。ここで、強磁性膜95では、反強磁性膜94と交換結合するのに要求される特性(反強磁性膜94とエピタキシャル成長するために反強磁性膜94と結晶構造や格子定数が同様である結晶性の強磁性膜、例えばNiFe膜、CoFe膜、CoFeTa膜、CoFePd膜が望ましい)と、静磁結合パイアスや動作点パイアスに要求される特性とを両立することが困難である(上記結晶性の膜では抵抗率が低すぎる)。そこで、強磁性膜95は、反強磁性膜94と接する交換結合用磁性膜

(NiFeやCoFe系強磁性膜等)とバイアス用の強磁性膜(Co系非晶質膜、FeTaN等の窒化微結晶膜、あるいはFeZrC等の炭化微結晶膜等)が界面で強磁性交換結合する2層構造であることが望ましい。

【0259】図62に示す構造の場合、硬質磁性膜95

に電極端子96からのセンス電流が分流するので△R/ Rがある程度減少することが避けられない。この問題は 図63~図65に示す構造により解消できる。

【0260】すなわち、図63に示すように、基板90上に図62と同様に反強磁性膜94まで成膜し、その後、反強磁性膜94の両サイド近傍に硬質磁性膜95を形成する。その内側にトラック幅に相当する間隔で電極端子96を形成する。その結果、硬質磁性膜95にセンス電流が流れることを防止でき、ΔR/Rの低下を抑制できる。

【0261】一方、図64に示すように、基板90上の最初に硬質磁性膜95を形成し、その上に絶縁膜97を介して強磁性膜91、非磁性膜92、強磁性膜93、および反強磁性膜94を順次形成し、さらに電極端子96を形成する。このとき、成膜中に静磁界を加えて、反強磁性膜94から強磁性膜93に所定の交換バイアス磁界を加える。成膜後にこの交換バイアス方向と同じ方向に硬質磁性膜95を着磁する。この方法でも、強磁性膜91と93に反対方向のバイアス磁界を印加することができ、しかも硬質磁性膜95に電流が流れることを防止できる。なお、絶縁膜97は硬質磁性膜95と強磁性膜91との交換結合により過大なバイアス磁界が加わることを防ぐ効果もある。

【0262】また、図65に示すように、基板90上に強磁性膜91、非磁性膜92、強磁性膜93、および反強磁性膜94を順次成膜する。次に、この積層膜を所定の形状に微細加工する。この微細加工はレジスト等を用いてマスクを形成し、イオンミリング等により行う。この後、この残りのマスクを使用してリフトオフ法により強磁性膜91のサイドに硬質磁性膜95を形成する。最後に、強磁性膜93に加わる交換バイアスとは逆方向に硬質磁性膜95を着磁する。この方法でも、強磁性膜91と93に反対方向のバイアス磁界を印加することができ、しかも硬質磁性膜95に電流が流れることを防止できる。

【0263】(実施例34)図61に示すスピンパルブ構造において、ガラス基板80上に1at%のCrを含む厚さ5nmのCu下地膜、反強磁性膜82として厚さ15nmのFeMn膜、強磁性膜83aとして厚さ1nmのNi80Fe20膜、非磁性膜87として1at%のCrを含む厚さ1.5nmのCu膜、強磁性膜83bとして厚さ6nmのNi80Fe20膜、非磁性膜84として厚さ2.5nmのCu膜、強磁性膜85bとして厚さ6nmのNi80Fe20膜、非磁性膜87として1at%のCrを含む厚さ1.5nmのCu膜、強磁性膜85aとして厚さ1nmのNi80Fe20膜、並びに反強磁性膜85aとして厚さ15nmのFeMn膜を順次形成した。

【0264】これらの膜の成膜は、永久磁石による静磁 界中で2極スパッタリング法により真空を破ることなく 一括に行った。なお、この永久磁石は基板ホルダーには 一体的に取り付けられていない。また、このとき、予備排気圧1×10-4Pa以下、Arガス圧0.4Paの条件で行い、強磁性膜83の成膜が終了した後で基板ホルダーを180°回転させて永久磁石によるパイアス磁界(約4000A/m)の方向を180°反転した。このようにして、信号磁界0で両強磁性膜磁化の反平行状態を実現できるスピンバルブ構造の積層膜を作製した。

【0265】得られた積層膜の抵抗を4端子法により測定した。具体的には、強磁性膜83および85の容易軸方向に1mAの定電流を加え、困難軸方向の膜の幅を1mとして4m間の電圧を測定した。磁界はヘルムホルツコイルにより強磁性膜83および85の困難軸方向に加えた。その結果、得られた抵抗一磁界特性を図67に示す。

【0266】図66において、抵抗は最大磁界(16kA/m)での値を1に規格化して示す。磁界0では強磁性膜83と85の磁化が反平行状態にあるので、抵抗が最大値を示す。磁界が加わると、急激に抵抗は低下する。特に、2000A/m以上の磁界では抵抗はおよそ一定値を示す。約3.8%以下の抵抗変化率が2000A/m以下の僅かの磁界範囲で生じることが分かる。また、この抵抗一磁界特性にはヒステリシスやノイズが殆ど認められない。すなわち、このスピンバルブ構造の積層膜を用いると、著しく高感度でノイズの少ない磁気ヘッドを得ることができる。

【0267】さらに、図60に示すスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子を作製して、非磁性層84(Cu)の厚みと抵抗変化率との関係を調べた。その結果を下記表6に示す。下地膜には厚さ5nmのNiFe膜を用い、強磁性膜83,85には厚さ8nmのNiFe膜を用い、反強磁性膜82には厚さ10nmのFeMn膜を用いた。

[0268]

#### 【表6】

中間(Cu)厚(nm)	抵抗衰化率(%)
1. 2	9. 1
1.6	5. 7
2. 2	3.9
3. 3	3. 0

表6から分かるように、Cu厚が薄くなると急激に抵抗変化率が増加して、Cu厚が1.2mでは9%の高い抵抗変化率が得られた。これは、強磁性膜83と強磁性膜85には50kA/mの比較的大きな反平行バイアス磁界がそれぞれに加わっているので、非磁性膜84の厚みを薄くしても安定した反強磁性磁化配列が実現できるためである。非磁性層(Cu)厚を2m未満に薄くする場合、反平行磁化配列が崩れて抵抗変化率が激減する従来のスピンバルブ型磁気抵抗効果素子と異なり、両方の強磁性膜83.84に反対方向のバイアス磁界を加え、非

磁性膜84の厚みを薄くすることにより大幅に抵抗変化 率を増大できる。

【0269】(実施例35)次に、スピン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜の数を3層以上に増やした場合について説明する。

【0270】図67に示すように、基板100上に反強磁性膜102の配向を制御するための下地膜101、FeMn、NiO、PtMn等からなる厚さ5~50mの反強磁性膜102、CoFe、Co、NiFe等からなる厚さ1~20mの強磁性膜103、Cu、Au等からなる厚さ1~10mの非磁性膜104、厚さ1~20mの強磁性膜105、厚さ1~10mの非磁性膜106、厚さ1~20mの強磁性膜107、および厚さ5~50mの反強磁性膜108を形成した。ここで、強磁性膜103、105、107の膜厚は、すべて等しくても異なっていてもよい。さらに、その上に必要に応じて保護膜を形成して電極端子109を形成した。なお、成膜は静磁界中で行った。

【0271】反強磁性膜102と108からそれぞれ強磁性膜103と107に交換バイアスを一方向(図中x方向)に加えた。その結果、中間の強磁性膜105のみが透磁率が高く、強磁性膜103と107は低い透磁率、すなわち磁化の固着が実現できた。この磁化の固着には、反強磁性膜ではなく図63で示したような硬質磁性膜95を用いてもよい。なお、反強磁性膜102および108と接する強磁性膜103および107の材料として軟磁性があまり良好でないが抵抗変化率の高いCoやCoFeを用い、中間の強磁性膜105の材料として抵抗変化率はあまり高くないが軟磁性が良好であるNiFeを用いることにより低磁界で高い抵抗変化率を実現できる。

【0272】このような構成により、中間の強磁性膜105の磁化回転が低磁界で容易に起こり、また、非磁性層を介した界面数が従来のスピンバルブ構造の膜に比べて2倍に増えるので、低磁界で従来のスピンバルブ構造の膜を上回る抵抗変化率を実現できる。また、この積層膜の中央に信号磁界で磁化回転する強磁性膜が位置することになるので、センス電流磁界による強磁性膜が位置することになるので、センス電流磁界による強磁性膜の磁化の乱れは僅かであり、安定した信号検出が可能になる。なお、実施例33で説明したような硬質磁性膜や反磁界によるバイアス法を併用すれば、強磁性膜103および107と、中間の強磁性膜105の磁化のなす角度を信号磁界0で反平行にすることができる。その結果、実施例32で述べた種々の効果により、さらに高感度で低ノイズの磁気抵抗効果素子を得ることができる。

【0273】(実施例36)図68は、スピン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜の数を4層に増やした積層膜を示す。

【0274】基板100上に、反強磁性膜111、非磁性層113,115,117を介して積層した4層の強

磁性膜112,114,116,118、反強磁性膜119を順次形成して、センス電流が信号磁界と同方向に流れるように電極端子109をその上に形成した。必要に応じて反強磁性膜111の下には配向制御用の下地膜を、反強磁性膜119の上には保護膜を形成する。各膜の材料、膜厚は図67に示したものと同様とした。

【0275】少なくとも強磁性膜112の成膜中には静 磁界を図中x方向(トラック幅方向)に付与して、一 方、その後の成膜途中で静磁界方向180°反転して少 なくとも反強磁性膜119の成膜中には静磁界を図中マ イナスx方向に付与した。この成膜中の静磁界により、 強磁性膜112にはx方向に、強磁性膜118にはマイ ナスx方向に交換バイアス磁界による磁化固着を生じ る。また、この構成では、トラック幅が狭いと強磁性膜 112, 114, 116, 118の幅も同様に狭くなる ので、その方向に強い反磁界が発生する。この反磁界に より、反強磁性膜と接していない中間の強磁性膜114 と116の磁化はそれぞれ強磁性膜112と118の磁 化と反平行になる。 すなわち信号磁界 0 では 4 層の強磁 性膜の隣接する磁化は互いに反平行に向くことになる。 【0276】なお、中間の強磁性膜114と116への 反磁界が不充分の場合には、センス電流により発生する 磁界が強磁性膜112と114ではマイナスx方向に、 強磁性膜116と118ではx方向に加わるようにセン ス電流を図中y方向に加えることが望ましい。ここで、 反強磁性膜からの交換バイアス磁界をセンス電流磁界よ りも大きくなるように設定すれば、強磁性膜112と1 18の磁化を電流磁界により乱されることなく反強磁性 膜からの交換パイアス方向に固着できる。

【0277】このような構成にすることにより、4層の強磁性膜の各磁化方向は、信号磁界0で反強磁性的に配列できる。したがって、界面数の増加に対応してΔR/Rが増加する。また、信号磁界が僅かに加わることにより各層の磁化が回転できるので、高感度なスピン依存散乱を用いた磁気抵抗効果素子を実現できる。

【0278】 (実施例37) 次に、スピン依存散乱能力を有する一部の強磁性膜の磁化を固着して、残りの強磁性膜の磁化を信号磁界 0 で信号磁界方向と異なる方向に配列する場合について説明する。

【0279】図69は、センス電流と信号磁界の方向が 直交する積層膜を示す。基板120上に、非磁性膜12 2を介在させたスピン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜1 21および123の積層膜、反強磁性膜124を順次形成した。各膜の材料、厚みは図60に示したものと同様 とした。必要に応じて、反強磁性膜124上に保護膜を 形成した後に電極端子125を形成した。

【0280】ここで、少なくとも強磁性膜121の成膜中には、図中x軸およびy軸の2等分線の方向に静磁界を付与し、一方、少なくとも反強磁性膜124の成膜中には、その静磁界の方向を前者の方向と45°回転させ

て付与した (図中y方向)。その結果、強磁性膜121 の磁化は前記静磁界のx方向に付与され、強磁性膜12 3の磁化は反強磁性膜124からのバイアス磁界により 信号磁界方向に固着された。このような構成によれば、 信号磁界0では両強磁性膜の磁化のなす角度は45°に なり、信号磁界が強磁性膜123の磁化固着方向に加わ ると、両強磁性膜の磁化方向が強磁性的な配列になるた め抵抗が減少し、逆に磁化固着方向と180°異なる方 向に信号磁界が加わると、両強磁性膜の磁化方向が反強 磁性的な配列になるため抵抗が増大する。したがって、 線型応答を実現するために従来の磁気抵抗効果素子に必 要であった動作点バイアスが不要になる。なお、この方 法では、強磁性膜121と123との強磁性的な結合に より強磁性膜121の磁化が信号磁界0でy方向に向け て傾き易く、大きな信号磁界が加わると再生信号が歪み 易い傾向がある。これは、センス電流により発生する電 流磁界が、強磁性膜121ではこの強磁性的な結合方向 と180°異なる方向に加わるように、すなわちこの強 磁性的な結合による磁界と電流磁界が相殺されるように センス電流の流れる向きを決めることにより回避でき る。

【0281】しかしながら、強磁性膜121や123に 異方性磁気抵抗効果を有する膜を用いる場合には、逆に この強磁性的な結合による磁界により強磁性膜121の 磁化Mが強磁性膜123の磁化M方向に傾くと、磁気異 方性とスピン異存散乱による抵抗変化が重畳するので (電流方向がx方向であるため) 感度向上が期待できる 利点がある。実際に、磁気抵抗効果素子が用いられる状 況に応じて、強磁性膜121の磁化方向を電流方向等の 手段により調整する必要がある。

【0282】ところで、実施例37では、バルクハウゼ ンノイズ抑制に必要な縦バイアス磁界(図中x軸および y軸の2等分線方向のバイアス磁界) を加える必要があ る。このためには、実施例32に示したような反強磁性 膜を強磁性膜121の基板側に配置して交換結合させ る。あるいは、図70 (A) に示すように、反強磁性膜 124上に、ある程度軟磁性が良い(Hcが交換バイア ス磁界HUAより小さい)強磁性膜126を積層して、少 なくともこの強磁性膜126の積層中には、成膜中のバ イアス磁界方向を概ね135°反転して強磁性膜126 からの交換パイアス磁界を強磁性膜121に加える方法 がある。この場合には、スピン依存散乱ユニットである 膜が下地膜の役目も果たすので、反強磁性膜124上に 成膜した強磁性膜126に容易に交換パイアスを付与で きる。その結果、実際に再生ヘッドに適した微細パター ンに加工したときに発生する静磁結合磁界(反磁界)に より、縦パイアス磁界を強磁性膜121に加えることが できるので、バルクハウゼンノイズが抑制できる。

【0283】図70 (A) の実施例では、反強磁性膜124の膜面両サイドで交換パイアス方向が異なるので、

バイアス磁界方向が不安になる場合もある。これは、図 70 (B) に示すように、反強磁性膜124を中間に磁 気結合を弱めるが結晶成長を阻害しない極薄い中間膜1 24b (Cu等のfcc相膜)を介して反強磁性膜12 4 a と 1 2 4 c に分離することで回避できる。このと き、実施例32で述べたように、熱処理で交換バイアス 磁界方向を制御可能とするため、反強磁性膜124aと 124 c はネール点またはブロッキング温度が異なる材 料で構成されることが好ましい。さらに、強磁性膜12 6が厚く、Bsが高くないと所望の縦バイアス磁界が強 磁性膜121に付与できないが、このとき強磁性膜12 6にセンス電流が分流するので、強磁性膜の抵抗率は高 いことが望ましい。具体的には、Co系やFe系のアモ ルファス膜や窒化または炭化微結晶膜を用いることが望 ましい。しかしながら、このような膜は、FeMn等の 反強磁性膜と交換結合し難いので、反強磁性膜124a と接する部分には極薄いNiFeやCoFeTa等の交 換結合しやすい強磁性膜124bを積層して、その上に 髙抵抗のアモルファス的な髙Bs強磁性膜126aを強 磁性交換結合するように積層することが望ましい。

【0284】(実施例38)図70(C)は、センス電流と信号磁界の方向が平行である積層膜を示す。センス電流の流れる方向が異なり、強磁性膜121の磁化が図中x方向に付与され、かつ膜の長手方向が90°回転していること以外は図69の構成と同様である。この構成においては信号磁界0では両強磁性膜の磁化のなす角度は90°になり、信号磁界が強磁性膜123の磁化固着方向に加わると、両強磁性膜の磁化が強磁性的な配列になるため抵抗が減少し、逆に磁化固着方向と180°異なる方向に信号磁界が加わると両強磁性膜の磁化が反強磁性的な配列になるため抵抗が増大する。したがって、やなり、動作点パイアスが不要になる。この構成では、センス電流による電流磁界が強磁性膜121の容易軸方向であり、この磁界がバルクハウゼンノイズを抑制する効果がある。

【0285】さらに、実施例38では、強磁性膜123から発生しやすいフェロ結合磁界のために強磁性膜121の磁化がy方向に傾きやすいことを付け加えておく。 実施例37で詳しく説明したように、この強磁性的結合磁界は、信号磁界ダイナミックレンジが縮まるが、異方性磁気抵抗効果を重量する利点を有する。なお、電流磁界が強磁性膜121に加わるので、必ずしも強磁性膜121の容易軸が×方向にある必要はない。

【0286】パルクハウゼンノイズ抑制効果が不十分のときは、強磁性膜123の磁化固着方向を信号磁界方向から外すことにより、図中x方向に静磁結合磁界が発生してより強いパルクハウゼンノイズ抑制磁界を付与できる。

【0287】(実施例39)図71は、スピン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜を3層とした場合の積層膜を示

す。図71では、センス電流と信号磁界が直交する場合について示す。基板130上に、静磁界中で反強磁性膜131、非磁性膜133および135を介在させたスピン依存散乱能力を有する強磁性膜132,134,136の積層膜、反強磁性膜137を順次形成した。その上に電極端子138を形成した。

【0288】ここで、静磁界の方向は、少なくとも強磁 性膜132と反強磁性膜137の成膜中は同じ方向とし て(図中y方向)、強磁性膜134の成膜中はそれと4 5°の角をなす方向(図中x軸とy軸の2等分線方向) とした。その結果、強磁性膜132と136の磁化は図 中y方向に固着され、強磁性膜134の磁化は高透磁率 を保ち、磁界0では図中x軸とy軸の2等分線方向近傍 に向く。したがって、この構成でも、磁界0では両強磁 性膜の磁化のなす角度はほぼ45°になり、信号磁界が 強磁性膜136の磁化固着方向に加わると、両強磁性膜 の磁化方向が強磁性的な配列になるため抵抗が減少し、 逆に磁化固着方向と180°異なる方向に信号磁界が加 わると、両強磁性膜の磁化方向が反強磁性的な配列にな るため抵抗が増大する。すなわち、動作点バイアスが不 要になる。この構成では界面数が2倍に増えるので感度 も向上する。

【0289】(実施例40)実施例38で示した方法の磁気抵抗効果素子の積層膜の抵抗-磁界特性を説明する。

【0290】図70(C)において、基板120としてサファイアC面基板を用い、強磁性膜121として厚さ $5\,nm$ のPd下地膜を有する厚さ $6\,nm$ のCo90Fe10膜を用い、非磁性膜122として厚さ $3\,nm$ のCu膜を用い、強磁性膜123としては厚さ $4\,nm$ のCo90Fe10膜を用い、反強磁性膜124としては厚さ $15\,nm$ のFe $M\,n$ 膜を用い、さらに、その上に保護膜として厚さを $5\,nm$ のPd膜を形成した。

【0291】この積層膜は2極スパッタリング法により真空を保ったまま一括に成膜した。なお、成膜中には永久磁石により静磁界を付与し、強磁性膜121の成膜を終えた後に静磁界の方向を90°反転させて、強磁性膜121と123の容易軸のなす角度を90°とした。また、スパッタリングの予備排気は $1\times10^{-4}$ Pa以下、スパッタガス圧は0.4Paとした。

【0.292】この積層膜の抵抗一磁界特性を実施例33と同様に測定した。図72に困難軸方向の抵抗一磁界特性を示す。図72において、強磁性的な磁化配列での抵抗を1として規格化する。図72から分かるように、信号磁界0で線形性のよい抵抗の磁界変化が得られる。これにより、動作点バイアスが不必要であることが分かる。

【0293】(実施例41)ここでは、強磁性膜/非磁性膜/強磁性膜からなるスピン依存散乱ユニットの両強磁性膜に別の強磁性膜または反強磁性膜を2層以上積層

して、そのとき発生する両バイアス磁界を概ね直交させ た磁気抵抗効果素子の実施例を示す。

【0294】図73は、基板120上に、CoPt等の ハード強磁性膜、一軸磁気異方性磁界Hkがスピン依存 散乱ユニットの強磁性膜よりも大きな高Hk強磁性膜 (例えば、Hk~5kA/mのCoFeRe膜等) やN iO等の反強磁性膜からなるバイアス磁界を印加するた めの第1のパイアス膜121a、スピン依存散乱ユニッ ト (強磁性膜121、非磁性膜122、強磁性膜12 3)、FeMn等の反強磁性膜からなるバイアス磁界を 印加するための第2のパイアス膜124を順次積層した 多層膜を示す。この多層膜の第1のバイアス膜121a から発生するバイアス磁界は、積層界面を通した交換結 合により主に強磁性膜121にパイアス磁界が加わる。 一方、第2のバイアス膜124から発生するパイアス磁 界は、積層界面を通した交換結合により主に強磁性膜1 23に加わる。この第1と第2のパイアス磁界は概ね直 交するような方向関係を満足するように加える。さら に、第2のバイアス磁界は強磁性膜123の磁化が信号 磁界で実質的に動けない程度の強い値とする(10 k A /m以上が望ましい)。

【0295】一方、第1のバイアス磁界強度は、信号磁 界により強磁性膜121の磁化が回転でき、バルクハウ ゼンノイズが抑制できる程度の磁界とする。具体的に は、第1のパイアス膜に反強磁性膜を用いる場合には、 バイアス膜121aと強磁性膜121のパイアス磁界を 5 k A/m以下にすることが望ましい。第1のバイアス 膜に強磁性膜を用いる場合には、何等かの手段によりバ イアス膜121aの磁化方向を一定方向に保持して単磁 区化してバイアス膜121aと強磁性膜121を強い交 換結合で一体化すると、信号磁界によりバイアス膜12 1 a および強磁性膜121が概ね同様に回転でき、強磁 性膜121aが単磁区であるので、強磁性膜121も単 磁区になりバルクハウゼンノイズが除去できる。あるい は、例えば界面に別の層を挿入してバイアス膜121a と強磁性膜121の交換結合~5kA/m以下に弱める 方法もある。この場合、強磁性膜121のみが信号磁界 により磁化回転するため、バイアス膜121aの透磁率 を抑制して磁化を動き難くすることが好ましい。この透 磁率抑制手段としては、Hkの向上、保磁力の向上、あ るいは何等かの手段で一方向性バイアス磁界をバイアス 膜121aに加える等がある。

【0296】ここで、強磁性膜121aを単磁区化する 手段としては、図74に示すように、バイアス膜121 aをスピンパルプユニットよりも長くしてバイアス膜1 21aのエッジ部に新たな反強磁性膜やハード膜121 bを積層することが等が可能である。

【0297】以上の構成の磁気抵抗効果素子を作製すると、強磁性膜123の磁化方向は固定され強磁性膜12 1の磁化が信号磁界に応じて変化するので、図69に示 した実施例と同様に信号磁界~0で線形性の良好な高感度な磁気抵抗効果素子が得られ、なおかつ信号磁界を検出する強磁性膜121の磁壁も除去できるので、動作点パイアスが不要で高感度・ノイズなしの信号磁界再生が可能になる。

【0298】ここで、強磁性膜121の磁化容易軸方向をパイアス磁界方向と直交する方向に付与することが、特に磁気異方性の大きなCo系の強磁性膜を121に用いた場合には望ましい。そうすると、異方性磁界に相当する飽和磁界とパイアス磁界が相殺できるので、Hsが大幅に低減できるので、図69に示した飽和磁界一抵抗特性の傾きが急峻になり、通常のバイアス磁界方向と強磁性膜121の磁化容易軸が同方向である場合に比べて、より高感度な信号磁界検出が可能になる。バイアス磁界と強磁性膜の容易軸の方向を変えるには、パイアス膜121aの成膜中における磁界印加方向と強磁性膜121の成膜中における磁界付与方向を変える方法等がある。

【0299】(実施例42)図75に示すように、支持基板140上に、高保磁力膜の配向を制御するための厚さ20mのCr下地膜141、Co等からなる厚さ8mの高保磁力膜142、Cu等からなる厚さ3nmの非磁性膜143、および厚さ4.6mのNiFe等からなる強磁性膜144を順次形成し、さらに、その上に電極端子145を形成してスピンパルプ構造の磁気抵抗効果素子を作製した。なお、積層膜の成膜は超高真空Eガン蒸着により行った。このときの基板温度は約100℃とし、真空チャンパー内は1×10-8Pa以下に排気した。

【0300】基板温度約100℃とした場合のCo/C r膜についてX線回折パターンを調べた。その結果を図76に示す。図76に示すように、この膜はCr (200)が高配向であり、このCr 膜を下地膜としたCo 膜も (110)が高配向であった。なお、Co (110)ピークのロッキングカーブ半値幅は約3°であった。次に、基板温度約100℃で成膜した図75に示すNiF e/Cu/Co/Cr/基板の構造の積層膜の困難軸方向のR-Hカーブを図77に示す。R-Hカーブは通常のレジストプロセス、イオンミーリングを用いて積層膜を2 $m\times6\mu$ のパターンに加工し、4端子法により測定した値に基づいて作成した。このとき、容易軸はパターン長手方向とし、磁界はパターン幅方向に加えた。

【0301】図77に示すように印加磁界±800eの場合、抵抗変化率約6.5%となり、飽和磁界は約3.6kA/mとなった。

【0302】この構造は、高保磁力膜のHcが約8kA/mであるため、媒体からの磁界が8kA/m未満の場合は問題がないが、ヘッドと媒体との間が近い構造、すなわち媒体からの磁界が8kA/m以上となるような構造には適さない。そこで、図75と同様の構造、膜厚で、基板温度を約200℃とし、さらに約8kA/mの

磁界中で積層膜を成膜した。

【0303】基板温度約200℃とした場合のCo/CrのX線回折パターンは図76とほぼ同じであった。また、この積層膜もCo(110)ピークのロッキングカープ半値幅は約3°であった。さらに、ポールフィギュアで測定したところ磁界方向に六方晶C軸の偏りが見られた。したがって、基板温度100℃、無磁界中において成膜した積層膜に比べ、単結晶様のCoが得られた。

【0304】次に、基板温度約200℃、磁界中において成膜した図75と同じ構造の積層膜の困難軸方向のRーHカーブを図78に示す。RーHカーブは前記と同様に積層膜を2㎜×6μmのパターンに加工し、4端子法で測定した値に基づいて作成した。このとき容易軸(C軸の方向)はパターン長手方向とし、磁界はパターン幅方向に加えた。

【0305】図78に示すように、外部磁界 $\pm 1.6$  k A/mの場合でも高保磁力膜の磁化は印加磁界によってほとんど動くことはなく、しかもNiFe 膜の飽和磁界も約2.8 k A/mと低く保つことができた。また、抵抗変化率も約7.5%となった。

【0306】上記構成の積層膜は、外部磁界1.6 k A / mでも高保磁力膜の磁化が安定しているため、N i F e 膜の容易軸を幅方向として、C o のC軸を概ね長手方向とするパターンを作製した。この構成により動作点バイアスが不要となる。このとき、磁界をパターン長手方向に加え、そのときのR-Hカーブを測定した。なお、パターン形状は前記と同様に2 m×6 μ mとした。その結果を図79に示す。図79から分かるように、ヒステリシスのない良好なR-Hカーブが得られ、H k も約1.6 k A / m と低い値を示した。

【0307】また、ここでは高保磁力膜としてCo膜を用いたが、CoNi膜、CoCr膜を用いてもよい。さらに、下地膜としてはCr膜の他にW膜等を用いてもよく、これらのCr、Wをベースとして、それに添加元素を加えてもよい。なお、この下地膜は、本発明全体にわたっていわゆるハード膜の下地膜に適用することができる。これにより、C軸を硬磁性膜の膜面内に存在させる(特定方向にC軸が揃う)ことができる。したがって、硬磁性膜を固着した場合に、その上に形成した強磁性膜まで固着されることを防止できる。

【0308】ここで、参考のために下地膜のない積層膜のM-Hカープを図80に示す。Coの磁化の垂直成分から漏れ磁界が発生し、NiFe膜の軟磁気特性を劣化させていることが分かる。これは、一部のNiFeとCoの磁化が一体化していると考えられる。

【0309】(実施例43)実施例42で示すように、基板温度約200℃で成膜した高保磁力膜は、単結晶様の膜で低抵抗であるため、電子の平均自由行程を高保磁力膜の厚みよりも充分に長くできる。したがって、図81のように高保磁力膜142と強磁性膜144とをCu

非磁性膜143を介して積層した。この積層膜の抵抗変化率は約15%と高い値を示した。なお、このような構造の積層膜を作製するためには、第1層の高保磁力膜142の配向を制御するために下地膜を設けることが望ましい。また、本実施例では下地膜として厚さ20mmのCr膜141を用いた。

【0310】(実施例44)次に、配向制御用高保磁力 膜を例えば実施例34でのバイアス膜として用いた場合 について説明する。

【0311】本実施例では、図82に示すように、配向制御用高保磁力膜142上に磁気的絶縁層146を介してスピンバルブ構造の磁気抵抗効果素子を形成した。このように、配向制御高保磁力膜142を用いることによって、膜端部において高保磁力膜142とNiFe膜144が静磁結合し、バルクハウゼンノイズの原因となっているNiFe膜端部の磁壁を固着させることができる。さらに、配向制御高保磁力膜を用いているため、高保磁力膜のNiFe膜に対する影響、例えば膜内部の漏れ磁界等を回避でき、NiFe膜の軟磁気特性を劣化させることなく、良好な素子を作製できる。また、ここではスピンバルブ構造の交換バイアス膜として反強磁性膜等を用いてもよい。

[0312]

【発明の効果】以上説明した如く本発明の磁気抵抗効果素子は、高い抵抗変化率および優れた軟磁気特性を同時に発揮できるものであり、その工業的価値は大なるものがある。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の第1の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子(スピンバルブ構造)を示す断面図。

【図2】図1に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化率の外 部磁界依存性を示すグラフ。

【図3】(A), (B)は図1に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の磁化曲線を示すグラフ。

【図4】本発明の第1の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子(人工格子膜)の一例を示す断面図。

【図5】図4に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化率の外部磁界依存性を示すグラフ。

【図6】 $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜のCu下地膜がある場合の保磁力の膜厚依存性を示すグラフ。

【図7】 $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ 膜のCu下地膜がない場合の保磁力の膜厚依存性を示すグラフ。

【図8】本発明の第1の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子 (スピンバルブ構造)を示す断面図。

【図9】 (A) はサファイア基板 C面における  $\theta - 2\theta$  スキャン X線回折曲線、 (B) はサファイア基板 R面における  $\theta - 2\theta$  スキャン X線回折曲線。

【図10】CoggFen膜/Cu膜/サファイア基板C面における最密面ピークに関するロッキングカーブ。

【図11】CogoFelo膜における保磁力の最密面反射

でのロッキングカーブ半値幅依存性を示すグラフ。

【図12】( $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ )<sub>1-x</sub>  $Al_x$  膜/Cu膜における保磁力のAl 濃度 x 依存性を示すグラフ。

【図13】CogoFe10膜/Cu膜における保磁力の最密面反射強度依存性を示すグラフ。

【図14】  $(Co_{90}Fe_{10})_{1-x}Ta_x$ 膜/Cu膜における保磁力のTa濃度x依存性を示すグラフ。

【図15】本発明の第1の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子(スピンバルブ構造)を示す断面図。

【図16】本発明の第3の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図17】図16に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の容易軸方向のM-Hカーブ。

【図18】図16に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の困難軸方向のM-Hカーブ。

【図19】図16に示す磁気抵抗効果素子のR-Hカーブ。

【図20】高抵抗アモルファス層を設けない磁気抵抗効果素子の容易軸方向のM-Hカープ。

【図21】高抵抗アモルファス層を設けない磁気抵抗効果素子の困難軸方向のM-Hカーブ。

【図·2 2】本発明の第3の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図23】(A)~(C)は本発明の第3の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の他の例の製造過程を示す断面図。

【図24】本発明の第3の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の他の例を示す斜視図。

【図25】本発明の第4の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の例 を示す断面図。

【図26】図25に示す磁気抵抗効果素子において $\Delta \rho$   $/\rho_0$  と $d_{CoPe}$ との関係を示すグラフ。

【図27】本発明の第5の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図28】本発明の第5の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図29】本発明の第6の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子における保磁力の強磁性膜の膜厚依存性を示すグラフ。

【図30】本発明の第6の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子における保磁力の強磁性膜の膜厚依存性を示すグラフ。

【図31】本発明の第6の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の強 磁性膜の磁化曲線。

【図32】本発明の第7の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子における積層周期依存性を示すグラフ。

【図33】本発明の第6の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の強磁性膜における飽和磁界HsとCu膜厚との関係を示すグラフ。

【図34】本発明の第7の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の強 磁性膜の磁化曲線。

【図35】本発明の第7の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図36】第7の発明において、CuとCoFeとの界面状態を示す断面図。

【図37】図35に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の磁化曲線。

【図38】図35に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化特性を示すグラフ。

【図39】従来の磁気抵抗効果素子の磁化曲線。

【図40】従来の磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化特性を示すグラフ。

【図41】(A), (B) は本発明の第7の発明の磁気 抵抗効果素子のCu下地膜を有する強磁性膜についての 磁化曲線。

【図42】本発明の第7の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子のC u下地膜を有する強磁性膜についての抵抗変化特性を示 すグラフ。

【図43】本発明の第4の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図44】図43に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の磁化曲線。

【図45】図43に示す磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化特性を示すグラフ。

【図46】膜内の揺らぎを説明するための概略図。

【図47】(A)はMgO(110)面基板上CogoFe10/Cu人工格子膜の小角反射のX線回折曲線、

(B)はMgO(110)面基板上Co90Fe10/Cu 人工格子膜の中角反射のX線回折曲線。

【図48】 (A) は図47におけるfcc(220) 反射に関する [110] 軸方向から測定したロッキングカープ、(B) は図47におけるfcc(220) 反射に関する [100] 軸方向から測定したロッキングカーブ。

【図49】(A)は結晶配向面の揺らぎによる結晶配向面の法線の面内分布を示す概略図、(B)は抵抗変化率のセンス電流方向依存性を示す概略図。

【図50】 (A) はCu5.5nm/(Cu1.1nm/CoFe1nm) 16人工格子膜の外部磁界 [100] 軸方向の磁化曲線、(B) はCu5.5nm/(Cu1.1nm/CoFe1nm) 16人工格子膜の外部磁界 [110] 軸方向の磁化曲線。

【図51】MgO(110) 面基板上における $Co_{90}F$   $e_{10}/Cu$  積層膜の抵抗変化率のパイアス電圧依存性を示すグラフ。

【図52】fcc相(111)面配向したComFe<sub>10</sub> /Cu積層膜に積層欠陥が導入された場合の概念図。

【図53】 fcc相(111)面配向した $Co_{90}Fe_{10}$ /Cu積層膜に積層欠陥が導入された場合の原子配列を示す概念図。

【図54】fcc相(111)面配向したCo90Fe10/Cu積層膜に双晶欠陥が導入された場合の原子配列を示す概念図。

【図55】図54に示す状態における抵抗変化率のセンス電流方向依存性を示す概略図。

【図56】ガラス基板上における $Co_{90}Fe_{10}/Cu$ 人工格子膜の抵抗変化率の基板バイアス依存性を示すグラフ。

【図57】ガラス基板上におけるCogoFe10/Cu人工格子膜の長周期構造反射強度のバイアス依存性を示すグラフ

【図58】ガラス基板上における $Co_{90}Fe_{10}/Cu$ 人 工格子膜のfcc相(111)面反射強度のバイアス依 存性を示すグラフ。

【図59】ガラス基板上におけるCogoFe10/Cu人工格子膜の保磁力のバイアス依存性を示すグラフ。

【図60】本発明の第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図61】本発明の第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図62】本発明の第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図63】本発明の第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図64】本発明の第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図65】本発明の第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図66】本発明の第8の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の抵抗変化特性を示すグラフ。

【図67】本発明の第12の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図68】本発明の第12の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図69】本発明の第10の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図70】(A)~(C)は本発明の第10の発明の磁 気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図71】本発明の第10の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図72】本発明の第10の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子の 積層膜の抵抗変化特性を示すグラフ。

【図73】本発明の第12の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を 示す斜視図。

【図74】本発明の第12の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図75】本発明の第13の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

【図76】Co/Cr積層膜のX線回折パターン。

【図77】基板温度約100℃で成膜した本発明の第13の発明の積層膜のR-Hカーブ。

【図78】基板温度約200℃で成膜した本発明の第1 3の発明の積層膜のR-Hカーブ。

【図79】パターン幅方向を容易軸とした場合の本発明の第13の発明の積層膜のR-Hカープ。

【図80】下地膜を設けない場合の本発明の第13の発明の積層膜のR-Hカーブ。

【図81】本発明の第13の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

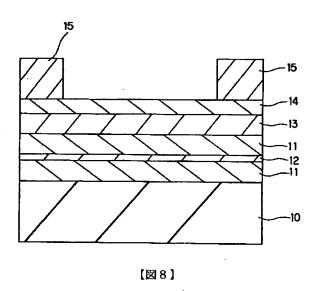
【図82】本発明の第13の発明の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す断面図。

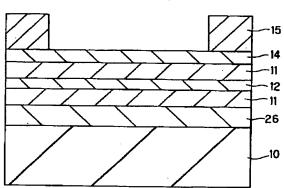
【図83】従来の磁気抵抗効果素子を示す斜視図。

【図84】従来の磁気抵抗効果素子のR-Hカープ。 【符号の説明】

10, 20…サファイア基板、11, 21, 71…CogoFe10膜、12, 22, 23, 70…Cu膜、13…FeMn膜、14…Ti膜、15, 24…Cuリード、26…Ni酸化物膜、30, 41, 140…支持基板、31, 46…高抵抗アモルファス層、32, 44, 83, 85, 91, 93, 103, 105, 107, 112, 114, 116, 118, 121, 123, 13

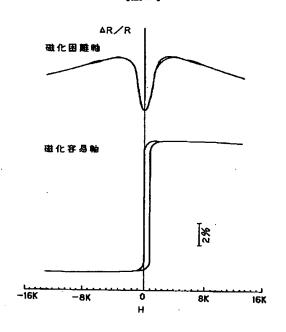
【図1】



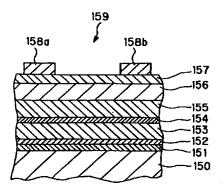


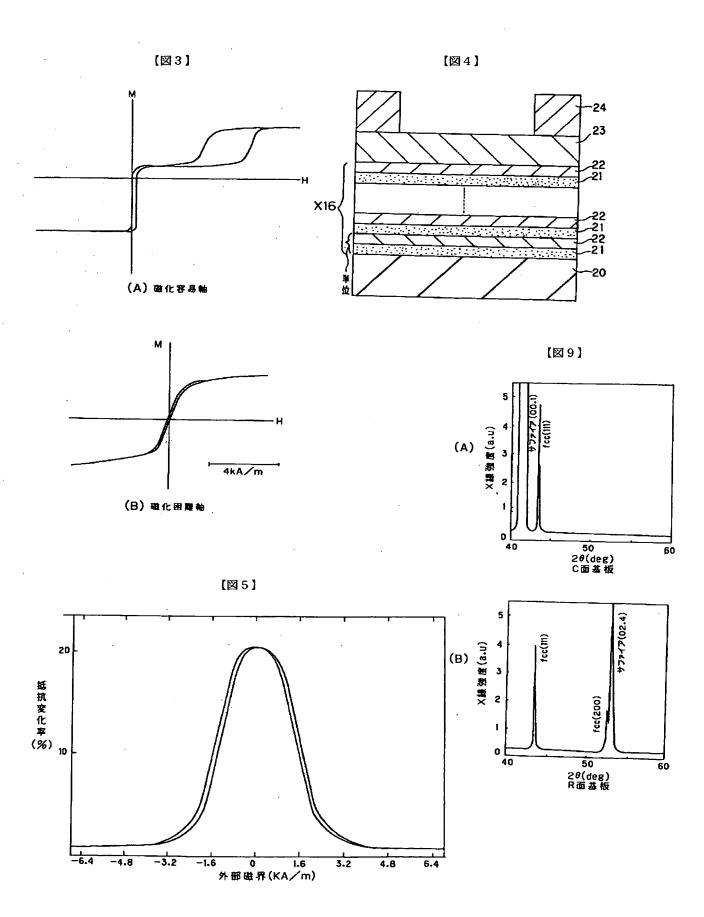
2, 134, 136, 144…強磁性膜、33, 45. 143…中間層、34…交換パイアス層、35,47… リード、42…CoPtCr膜、43…レジスト、5 0,80,90,100,120,130…基板、51 …強磁性積層単位、52,84,87,88,92,1 04, 106, 113, 115, 117, 122, 13 3, 135, 163…非磁性膜、53, 82, 94, 1 02, 108, 111, 119, 124, 131, 13 7, 165…反強磁性膜、54, 166…保護膜、5 5, 62, 86, 96, 109, 125, 145…電極 端子、60…MgO基板、61…積層膜、81,10 1, 141…下地膜、95…硬質磁性膜、97…絶縁 膜、142…高保磁力膜、146…磁気的絶縁層、16 0…熱酸化Si基板、161…高抵抗強磁性膜、162 …第1の強磁性膜、164…第2の強磁性膜、167 a, 167b…電極、169…高抵抗反強磁性膜。

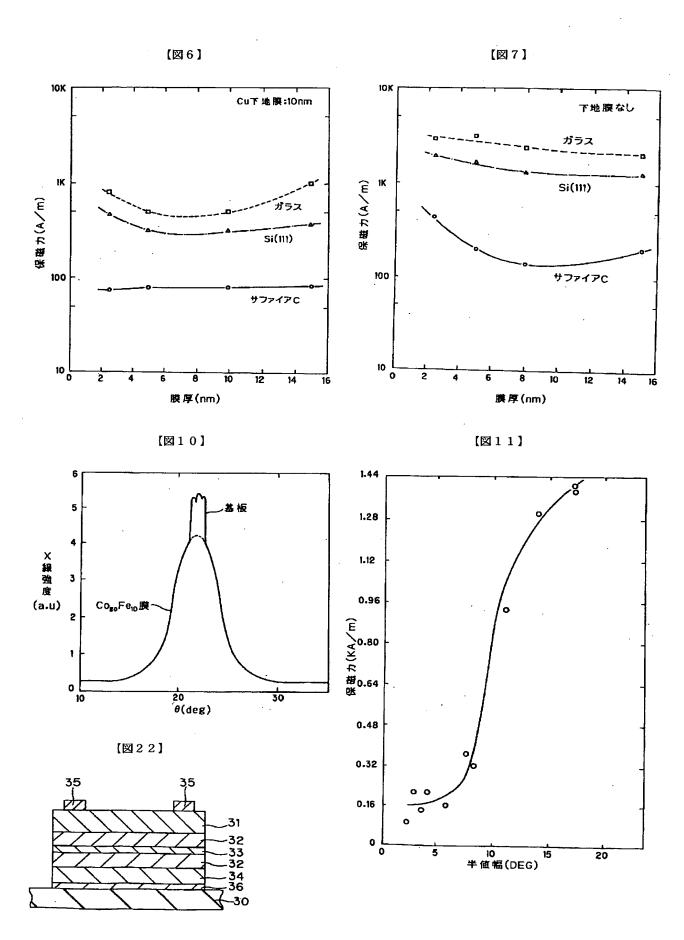
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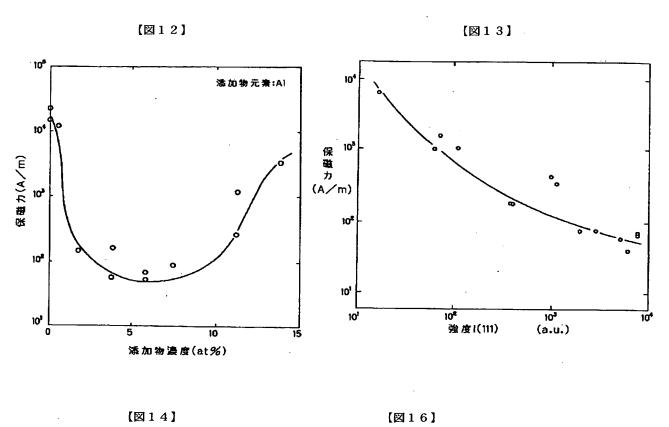


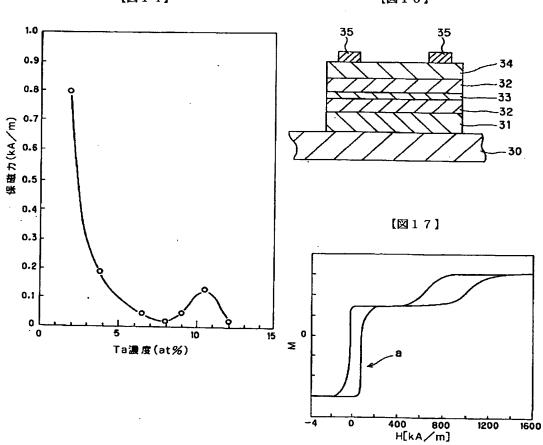
【図15】

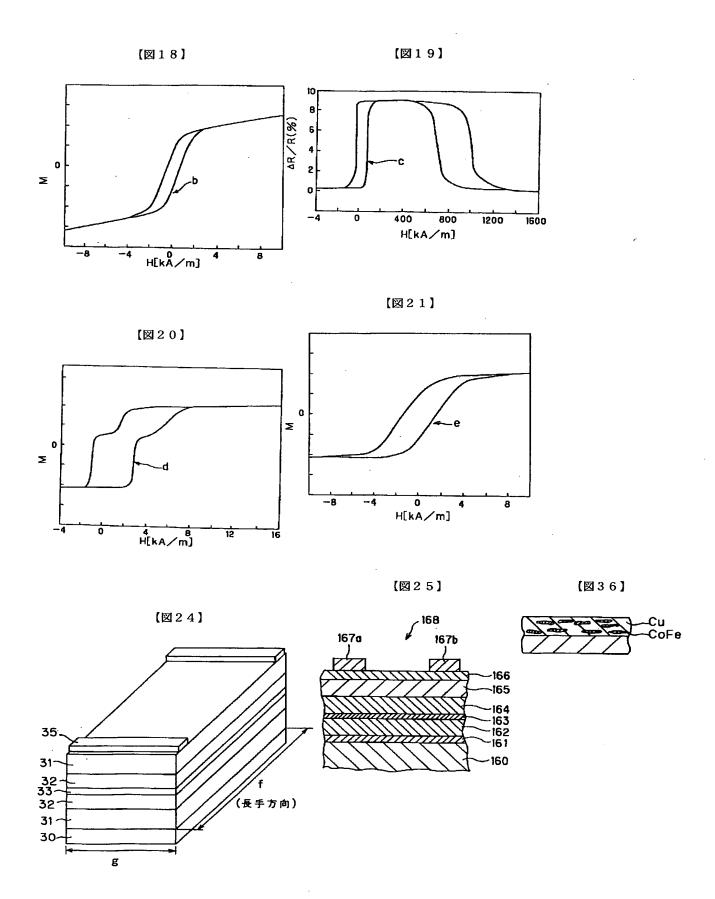


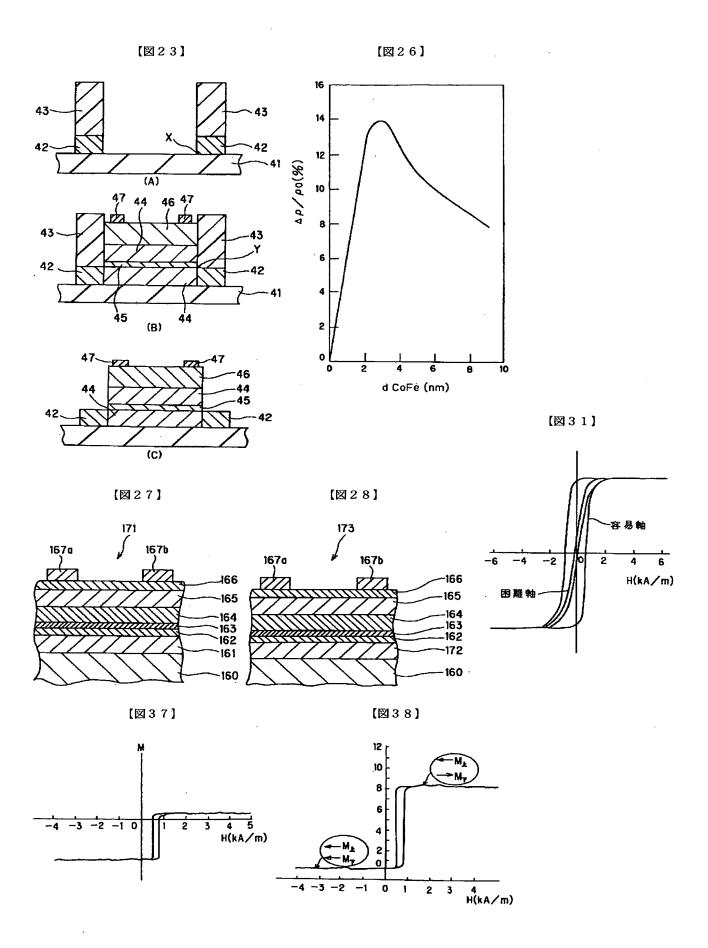


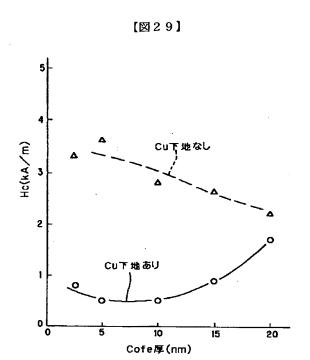


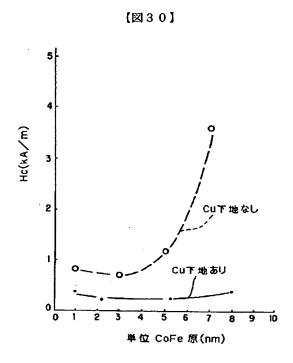


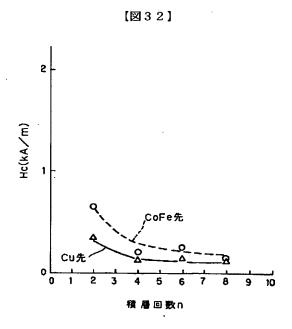


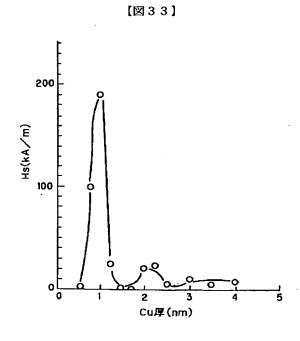


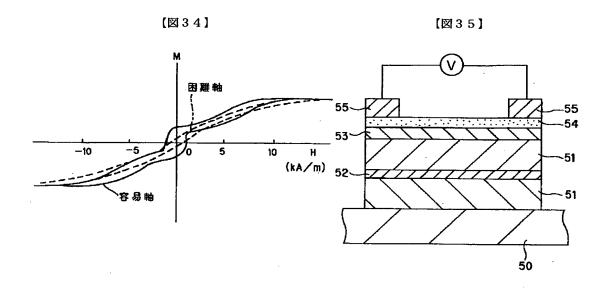


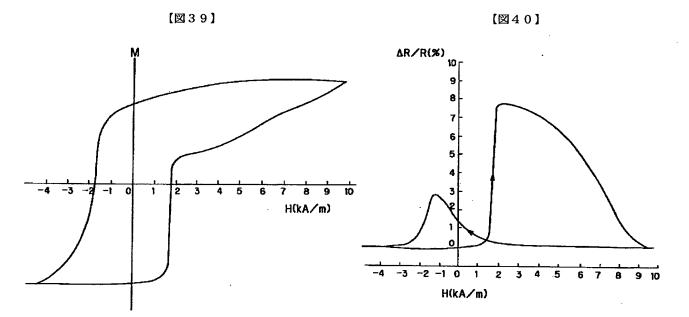


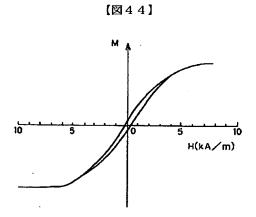




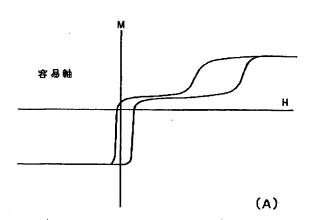


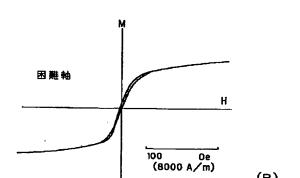






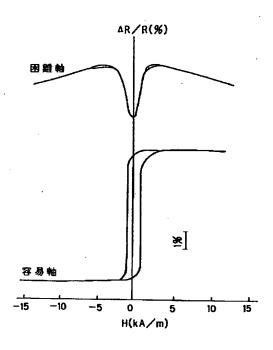




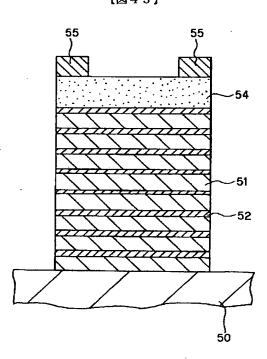


(B)

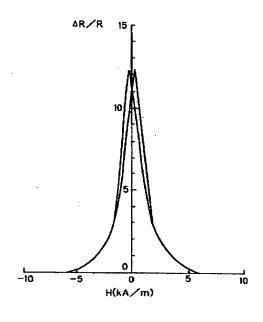
## 【図42】



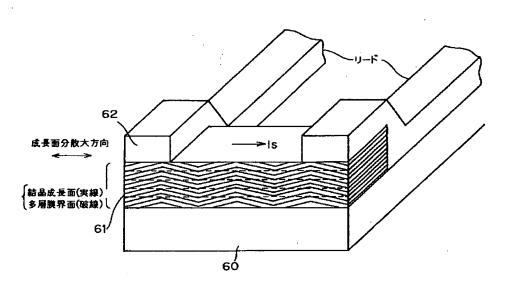
[図43]

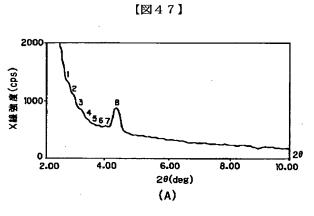


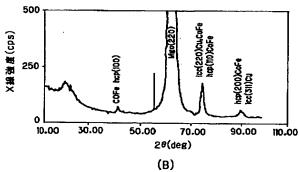
【図45】



【図46】



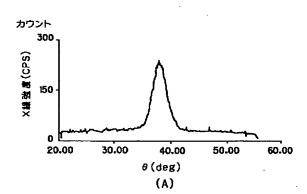


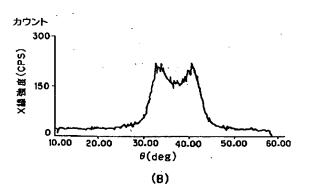


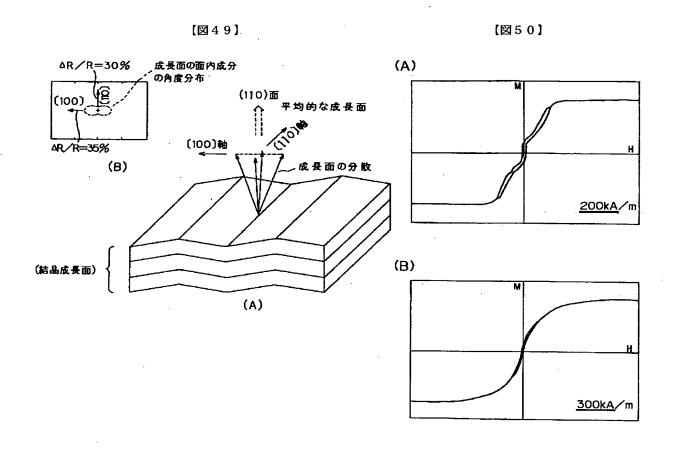


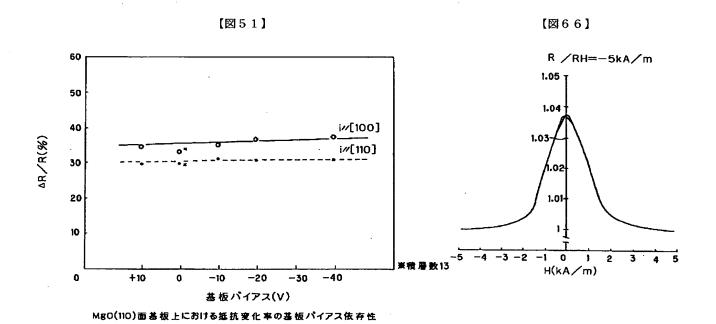
(A) 小角反対(膜の周期構造) (B) 中角反対(膜の結晶構造)



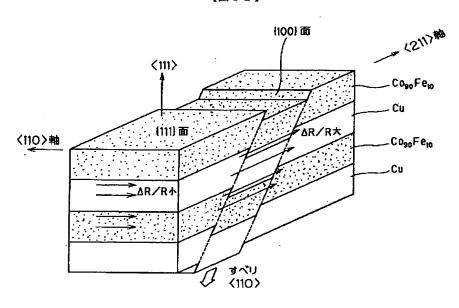






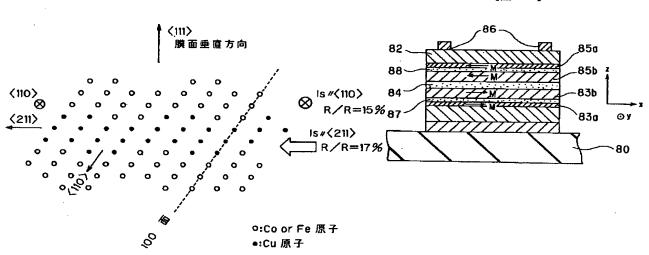


【図52】

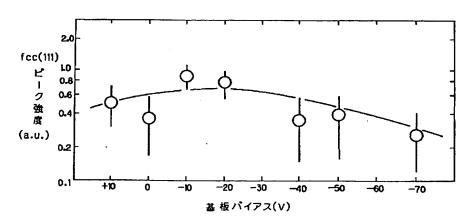


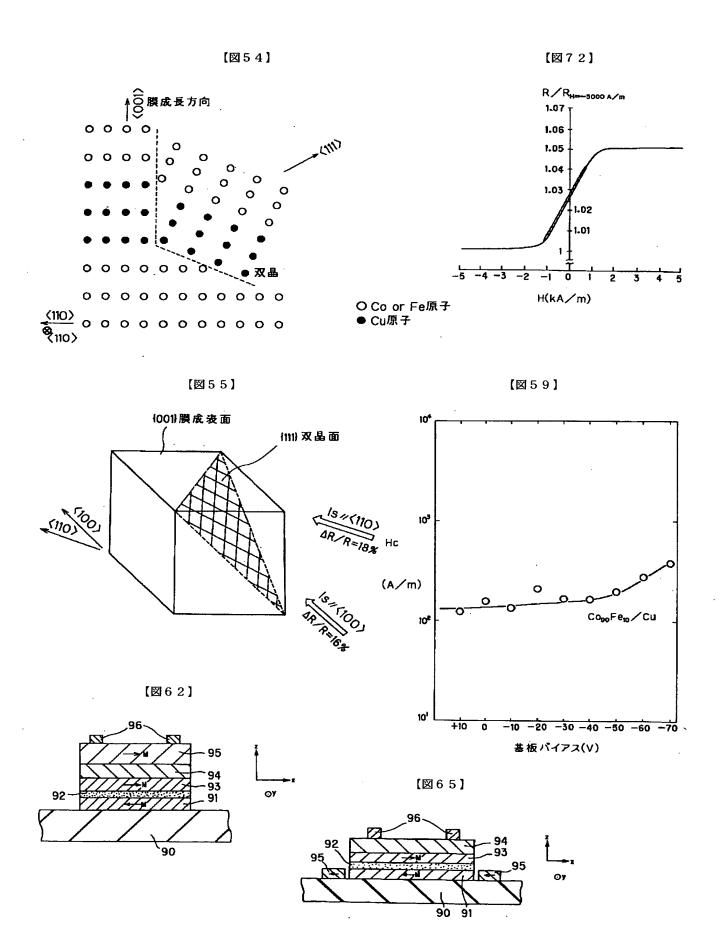
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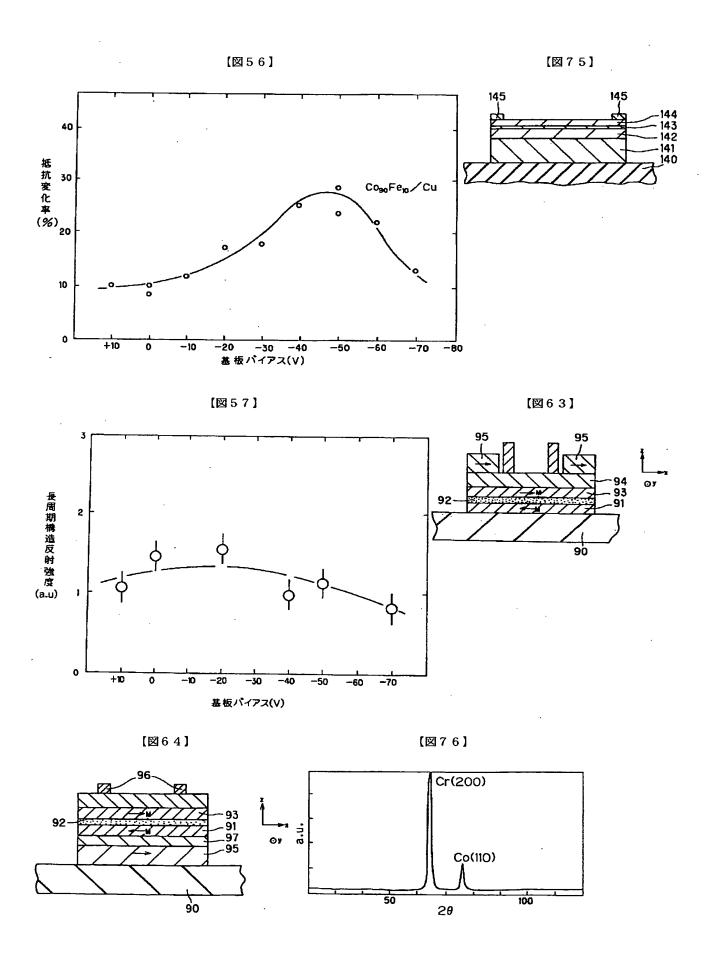
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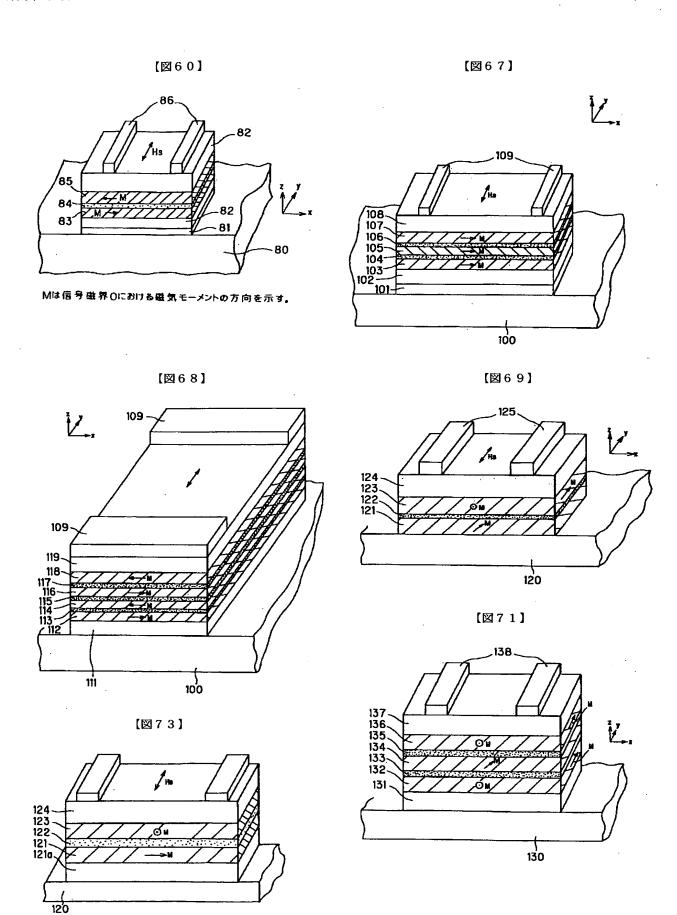


【図58】

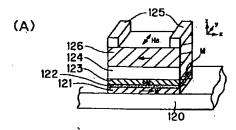


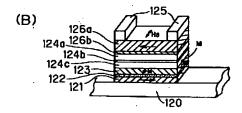


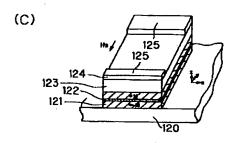


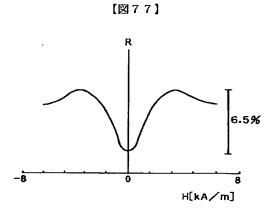


【図70】

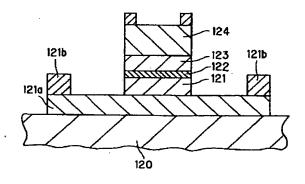




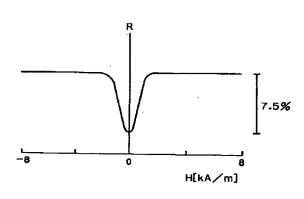




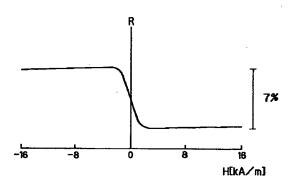
【図74】



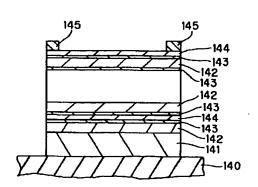
【図78】



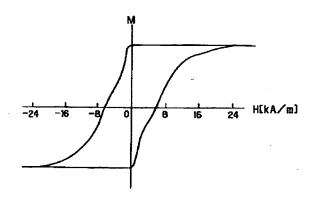
【図79】



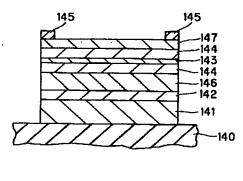
[図81]



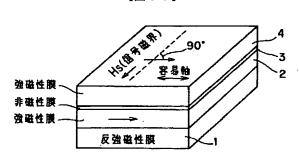
【図80】



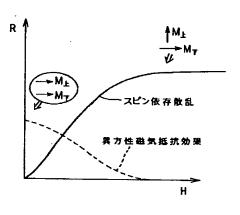
[図82]



【図83】



【図84】



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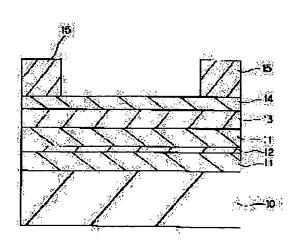
JP

## (54) MAGNETORESISTIVE EFFECT ELEMENT

#### (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To enhance the soft magnetic characteristics by depositing a ferromagnetic film, a nonmagnetic film and a ferromagnetic film sequentially on a substrate wherein one ferromagnetic film has a composition principally comprising two kinds of element selected from a group of magnetic metals and added with one element selected from a group of nonmagnetic metals.

SOLUTION: A ferromagnetic CoFe film 11, an intermediate nonmagnetic Cu film 12, a ferrormagnetic CoFe film 11, an antiferromagnetic FeMn film 13 and a protective film of Ti 14 are deposited sequentially on a sapphire substrate 10. One ferromagnetic film has a composition principally comprising two elements selected from a group of Co, Fe and Ni added with one element selected from a group of Pd, Al, Cu, Ta, In, B, Nb, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au and Ag. This structure enhances the soft magnetic characteristics.



#### **LEGAL STATUS**

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#### **CLAIMS**

#### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It is the magneto-resistive effect element which possesses at least a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and a cascade screen to which it comes to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic one by one on a substrate. One [ at least ] ferromagnetic uses as a principal component at least two sorts of elements chosen from a group which consists of Co, Fe, and nickel. A magneto-resistive effect element to which at least one element chosen from a group which consists of Pd, aluminum, Cu, Ta, In, B, Nb, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au, and Ag is characterized by having a presentation by which addition content was carried out.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] This invention relates to the magneto-resistive effect element used for the magnetic head etc. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Before, when reading the information recorded on magnetic—recording data medium, the method of detecting the voltage by which induction is carried out to a coil by the electromagnetic induction which is made to move relatively the magnetic head for read which has a coil to a record medium, and is then generated is common. Moreover, when reading information, using a magneto—resistive effect mold arm head is also known [IEEE MAG—7,150 (1971)]. The electric resistance of a certain kind of ferromagnetic uses the phenomenon of changing according to the strength of an external magnetic field, and this magneto—resistive effect mold arm head is known as a high sensitivity arm head for magnetic—recording data medium. Since miniaturization and large capacity—ization of magnetic—recording data medium are advanced and the relative velocity of the magnetic head for read at the time of information reading and magnetic—recording data medium is becoming small in recent years, even if it is a small relative velocity, the expectation for the magneto—resistive effect mold arm head which can take out a big output is growing.

[0003] Conventionally, the NiFe alloy (it abbreviates to a permalloy hereafter) is used for the portion (it is hereafter called MR element) from which an external magnetic field is sensed in a magneto-resistive effect mold arm head, and resistance changes. When using what has good soft magnetic characteristics for MR element for magnetic-recording data medium which magneticreluctance rate of change is about 3% at the maximum, and was large-capacity[ a miniaturization and ]-ized, magnetic-reluctance rate of change of the permalloy is inadequate. For this reason, what shows a high sensitivity magnetic-reluctance change as a MR element material is desired. [0004] On the multilayer cascade screen which comes to carry out a laminating on some conditions by turns, and the so-called artificial grid film, a ferromagnetic and a nonmagnetic membrane like Fe/Cr or Co/Cu in recent years It is checked that a huge magnetic-reluctance change appears using antiferromagnetism-association between adjoining ferromagnetics. [Phys.Rev.Lett., Vol.61, 2472(1988)][Phys.Rev.Lett., Vol.64, and 2304(1990)] to which what shows the big magnetic-reluctance rate of change exceeding 100% at the maximum is reported. [0005] exert exchange bias on one side of two ferromagnetics which sandwiched the nonmagnetic membrane with another means on the other hand, without using antiferromagnetism-association between adjoining ferromagnetics even when a ferromagnetic did not carry out antiferromagnetism association, fix magnetization, and another ferromagnetic carries out flux reversal by the external magnetic field -- a nonmagnetic membrane -- inserting -- mutual -- anti- -- a condition [ \*\*\*\* ] is made and the example which realized big magneticreluctance change is also reported. [Phys.Rev.B., Vol.45806(1992)] [J. which calls this type spin bulb structure here Appl.Phys., Vol.69, 4774(1991)].

[0006] As for the resistance law and magnetic properties of a cascade screen, both an artificial grid film and the film of spin bulb structure change considerably with classes of ferromagnetic.

For example, in Co/Cu/Co/FeMn, when Co is used with spin bulb structure, although 8% of big resistance rate of change is produced, coercive force is as high as about 20 oersteds, and soft magnetic characteristics are not good. on the contrary — although the good value of one or less oersted is reported for coercive force by NiFe/Cu/NiFe/FeMn when a permalloy is used for example, — [which is not so large as about 4% as for resistance rate of change — J. — aluminum.Phys., Vol.69, and 4774(1991)]. Thus, although the soft magnetic characteristics of a cascade screen are good, resistance rate of change falls. Therefore, the configuration element and membrane structure of a cascade screen with which both soft magnetic characteristics and resistance rate of change are filled are not reported yet.

[0007] Moreover, there are the following troubles in the film of two types.

[0008] By the artificial grid film, although resistance rate-of-change deltaR/R which disregarded a magnetic field range is large compared with a spin bulb mold, since the saturation magnetic field Hs is large, difficulty is in soft magnetism, since antiferromagnetism association is large, and this RKKY antiferromagnetism association is still more sensitive to interface structure, the stable membrane formation is difficult and tends to produce aging.

[0009] By the film of spin bulb structure, if a NiFe film is used for a ferromagnetic, good soft magnetic characteristics will be obtained, but since the number of the interfaces of a ferromagnetic and a nonmagnetic membrane is two, deltaR/R is small compared with an artificial grid film. In order to increase the number of these interfaces, even if it constitutes the multilayer cascade screen which repeats and comes to carry out the laminating of a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and the antiferromagnetism film, since the high antiferromagnetism film of resistance will exist in this cascade screen, spin dependence dispersion is controlled, and the increment in deltaR/R cannot be expected after all.

[0010] Moreover, since magnetization rotates by the ferromagnetic of only one side when a signal magnetic field is added to the difficult shaft orientations of the ferromagnetic suitable for the magnetic head, as shown in drawing 83, the angle which magnetization of the ferromagnetic 2 on the antiferromagnetism film 1 and the ferromagnetic 4 on a nonmagnetic membrane 3 makes by the signal magnetic field is changed only to about 90 degrees. In addition, the angle change to 180 degrees arises in easy shaft orientations. Consequently, deltaR/R decreases in the abbreviation one half of easy shaft orientations. Here, if thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane 3 is made thin and increase of resistance rate of change is aimed at, when the exchange bias magnetic field of the ferromagnetic 2 on the antiferromagnetism film 1 is weakened by a certain method even if and it enables it to use magnetization rotation of both ferromagnetics 2 and 4, in order that ferromagnetism—association may work between two ferromagnetics, in the state of the signal magnetic field 0, the magnetization between ferromagnetics turns to this direction. Consequently, even if it carries out magnetization rotation by the signal magnetic field, angle change of the magnetization between two ferromagnetics becomes small, and resistance change becomes small.

[0011] Furthermore, ferromagnetism—association between two ferromagnetics which work when thickness of this nonmagnetic membrane is made thin also has the problem of degrading the permeability of a ferromagnetic. Moreover, by the method which passes sense current in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with a signal magnetic field, although there is the usual anisotropy magneto—resistive effect by the NiFe film with good soft magnetic characteristics, as shown in drawing 84, after magnetization of two ferromagnetics has gathered in this direction in the signal magnetic field 0, the anisotropy magneto—resistive effect by the signal magnetic field and the resistance change by spin dependence dispersion will negate each other. [0012]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Although it is necessary to make the current to supply increase as much as possible in order to obtain [1st] high sensitivity in the magnetic head as a common problem of an artificial grid film and the film of spin bulb structure, it is that the direction of magnetization is disturbed by the magnetic field which this current makes [some ferromagnetics] in both film, and the high sensitivity resistance change to a magnetic field is barred in this case. Near the maximum upper layer of a cascade screen, and the lowest layer, a current magnetic field is strong and, specifically, magnetization tends to turn to the direction of a

current magnetic field.

[0013] The important problem which should be solved when applying to the magnetic heads, such as Barkhausen noise control and operating point bias, is in the 2nd.

[0014] As mentioned above, with the magneto-resistive effect element which has an artificial grid film using spin dependence dispersion, and the film of spin bulb structure, it is in the present condition that good soft magnetic characteristics cannot be shown and large resistance rate-of-change deltaR/R moreover cannot be shown in the time of a high current injection indispensable to high-sensitivity-izing.

[0015] This invention is made in view of this point, and soft magnetic characteristics are good, and it has the film or artificial grid film of spin bulb structure with sufficient resistance rate-of-change \*\*R/R, and aims at providing the magnetic head of high sensitivity with an applicable magneto-resistive effect element.
[0016]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention made in order to attain with the above—mentioned purpose has at least basic structure of coming to carry out the laminating of a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and the ferromagnetic one by one, on a substrate about a magneto-resistive effect element which has an artificial grid film as shown in a film or drawing 4 of spin bulb structure as shown in drawing 1. Here, especially as a material of said ferromagnetic, unless it is specified, Co, CoFe, CoNi, NiFe, Sendust, NiFeCo, Fe8 N, etc. can be mentioned. Furthermore, a ferromagnetic which consists of Co100-x Fex (0< x<=40 atom %) is high \*\*R/R, and since it shows low [ Hc ], it is desirable. As for thickness of a ferromagnetic, it is desirable that it is 1-20nm. In addition, in this invention, ferromagnetism is semantics including ferrimagnetism. Moreover, as a material of a nonmagnetic membrane, non-magnetic metal, such as Mn, Fe, nickel, Cu, aluminum, Pd, Pt, Rh, Ru, Ir, Au, or Ag, CuPd, CuPt, CuAu, a CuNi alloy, etc. can be mentioned. As for thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane, it is desirable that it is 0.5-20nm, and it is desirable that it is especially 0.8-5nm.

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the magneto-resistive effect element of this invention is explained concretely.

[0018] At least invention of the 1st of this invention on a substrate A ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, And it is the magneto-resistive effect element for which a ferromagnetic possesses the cascade screen which comes to carry out a laminating one by one. The magneto-resistive effect element characterized by said two ferromagnetics being uncombined, and one [ at least ] ferromagnetic using as a principal component at least one sort of elements chosen from the group which consists of Co, Fe, and nickel, and the maximum \*\*\*\* carrying out orientation to the film surface perpendicular direction is offered.
[0019] In the 1st invention, it means that antiferromagnetism-switched connection does not exist substantially that two ferromagnetics are uncombined between two ferromagnetics. therefore, two ferromagnetics — setting — anti— when realizing a magnetization array condition [ \*\*\*\* ], a means different from antiferromagnetism-association between ferromagnetics is formed as a bias magnetic field impression means to a ferromagnetic. Moreover, in the case of a fcc phase (111), the maximum dense plane orientation means a field, and, in the case of a hcc phase (001), means a field.

[0020] In the 1st invention, as a method to which a film surface perpendicular direction is made to carry out orientation of the maximum \*\*\*\* of said ferromagnetic How to add at least one sort of elements chosen from the group which becomes the material of said ferromagnetic from Pd, aluminum, Cu, Ta, In, B, Nb, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au, and Ag (especially) Addition of Pd, Cu, Au, and Ag which do not almost have decline in resistance rate of change is desirable. The method using C side of silicon on sapphire etc. as a substrate which forms a ferromagnetic, The material which has fcc lattices, such as Cu, nickel, CuNi, NiFe, germanium and Si, and GaAs, between a substrate and a ferromagnetic, The material and Ti which have trigonal lattices, such as NiO, magnetic amorphous metals (CoZrNb, CoHfTa, etc.) and the method of preparing the substrate film which consists of what was chosen from the group which consists of a nonmagnetic amorphous material, the method of forming membranes with ultra-high-vacuum

membrane formation equipments, such as MBE, in a list, etc. are mentioned.

[0021] If the example of said substrate film is shown in detail here, in using the ferromagnetic which has the fcc lattice represented by Co90Fe10 film in Co system ferromagnetic, for example Cu-germanium-Zr, Cu-P, Cu-P-Pd, Cu-Pd-Si, Cu system alloy represented by Cu-Si-Zr, Cu-Ti, Cu-Sn, Cu-Ti-Zr, etc., Au system alloy represented by Au-Dy, Au-Pb-Sb, Au-Pd-Si, Au-Yb, etc., aluminum system alloy represented by aluminum-Cr, aluminum-Dy, aluminum-Ga-Mg, aluminum-Si, etc., Pd system alloy, Be-Ti which are represented by Pt system alloy, Pd-Si, Pd-Zr, etc., germanium system alloy represented by Be system alloys, such as Be-Ti-Zr and Be-Zr, germanium-Nb, germanium-Pd-Se, etc., The metal system which has fcc lattices, such as Ag system alloy, Rh system alloy, Mn system alloy, Ir system alloy, and Pb system alloy, Or the alloy system, germanium which use as a principal component the metal which has these fcc lattices, The material, GaAs which have the diamond structure of Si, a diamond, etc., The material which has zincblende structures, such as Ga-aluminum-As, Ga-P, and In-P, is mentioned as a material which has said fcc lattice, and the material which uses as a principal component at least one kind chosen from these, or the material which added other elements to them can be used. Among the above-mentioned materials, by itself, since specific resistance is fully high as compared with a ferromagnetic, material other than a single element metal has already had the effect which controls the current for shunt splitting. Moreover, although combination with various increments in the specific resistance by addition of the other elements to a single element metal exists, alloys, such as Cu system alloy represented by Cu-nickel, Cu-Cr, Cu-Zr, etc., Au-Cr, Fe-Mn, Pt-Mn, and nickel-Mn, are mentioned as an example in it.

[0022] As a nonmagnetic amorphous material, nonmagnetic nonmetal materials, such as amorphous carbon, such as non-magnetic metal materials, such as what contains a single element metal, and a nonmagnetic alloy and a nonmagnetic nonmetal as an additive, and amorphous Si like Hydrogenation Si, hydrogenation carbon, glassy carbon, graphitic carbon, etc. are mentioned.

[0023] Although especially the thickness of a substrate film which was mentioned above is not limited, it is desirable to be referred to as 100nm or less. Even if this makes thickness of a substrate film not much thick, the rate of current of flowing to about [ that the effect beyond it is not acquired ] and reverse at the substrate film in the whole element is large, and it is because resistance rate of change becomes small as a result. In the 1st invention, a substrate film improves the maximum dense plane orientation of a ferromagnetic. since [ furthermore, ] it is possible to carry out stratified growth, without being based on a substrate material, it is stabilized and the smooth surface is obtained in a nonmagnetic amorphous material among materials which were mentioned above — an improvement of orientation (111) — in addition, the surface smooth nature of the ferromagnetic formed on it — improvement in the smooth nature of an interface with a nonmagnetic membrane can be aimed at further. Therefore, it becomes possible to be stabilized and to obtain good resistance rate of change. Moreover, as a substrate film in the 1st invention, if a non-magnetic material is used, a bad influence will not be done to the ferromagnetic formed on it.

[0024] In addition, although a crystal stacking tendency improves when forming a substrate film, smooth nature may deteriorate and resistance rate of change may fall. So, when using the material and the magnetic amorphous metal which have an fcc lattice as a material of said 1st substrate film for promoting the maximum dense plane orientation, it is desirable to make the 2nd substrate film for improving the smooth nature which consists of Ti, Ta, Zr, a nonmagnetic amorphous material, etc. into the two-layer structure arranged between the 1st substrate film and a substrate. By making it such a configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element having the good soft magnetic characteristics obtained by improvement in the maximum \*\*\*\* crystal orientation and high magnetic-reluctance rate of change is obtained. Moreover, in addition to the above-mentioned effect, in two-layer structure, a part for the shunt current in the current which flows in an element can be lessened by using the 2nd substrate film with which it has the same crystal system as a ferromagnetic, and specific resistance consists of a larger material than a ferromagnetic material. In addition, when using a substrate film as a laminated structure more than two-layer, it is desirable not to exceed 100nm as thickness of a laminated structure.

[0025] as the production method of a substrate film which was mentioned above --  $13.56 \mathrm{MHz}$  or MOCVD which uses the ion beam sputtering method using the ion source with various 2 pole sputtering methods using high frequency discharge 100MHz or more, ECR ion sources, Kauffmann mold ion sources, etc., the vacuum deposition method using an electron beam evaporation source or a Knudsen cell, a heat CVD method, the CVD method using various plasma, and an organic metal as a raw material — law and MOMBE — the various membrane formation methods, such as law, are applicable. It is important to perform management of water and oxygen as common in these membrane formation methods through high-grade[ super-]-izing of exhaust air to an ultra-high vacuum or material gas. More specifically, it is H2 O and O2. They are ppm about a content. It is ppb below desirably. Decreasing to order is desirable. [0026] In the 1st invention, it is desirable as a material of a ferromagnetic to use Co system alloy. By the system which does not contain Co, this reason is low compared with the case where resistivity change \*\*R/R of the magneto-resistive effect element obtained is about 4% and Co system alloy, and is because it is the big crystal magnetic anisotropy which Co has even if it realizes the maximum dense plane orientation, so there is a possibility that soft magnetic characteristics may not improve so much, with the single element metal of Co. At this time. since 10% or more of high \*\*R/R and low [ of less than 80 A/m / Hc ] are shown by Co100-x Fex (5<=x<=40 atom %) considering as fcc phase (111) orientation especially, it is desirable. [0027] As for the crystal orientation of a ferromagnetic, it is desirable that less than 20 degrees of half-value width of the rocking curve of the maximum \*\*\*\* (for example, fcc phase (111) side) reflective peak in the X diffraction curve are especially 7 degrees or less. [0028] In the 1st invention, the addition content of an alloying element needs to be a range where the intermetallic compound which the ferromagnetism of the ferromagnetic which uses a CoFe alloy etc. as a principal component is not spoiled at a room temperature, and checks spin dependence dispersion is not generated. For example, when alloying elements are aluminum, Ga, and In, it is desirable that a content is less than [ 6.5at% ]. When alloying elements are Nb, Ta, Zr, Hf, B, Mo, and W, it is desirable that a content is less than [ 10at% ]. When alloying elements are Cu, Pd, Au, Ag, Re, Ru, Rh, and Ir, as for a content, it is desirable that it is less than [ 40at% ]. [0029] As a substrate material, moreover, MgO, sapphire, a diamond, graphite, Silicon, germanium, SiC, BN, SiN, AlN, BeO, Although the single crystal object represented by GaAs, GaInP, GaAlAs, BP, etc. and the sintered compact which makes those polycrystalline substance and them a principal component, magnetism or the single crystal object of non-magnetic metal, the polycrystalline substance, a sintered compact, etc. are mentioned as an example of representation A substrate material is chosen according to the class and its substrate film material of a ferromagnetic. It is desirable to use C side of the silicon on sapphire which has Co system alloy and good lattice matching, and has especially the feature which a still smoother field tends to acquire easily. When using single crystal substrates, such as silicon on sapphire, as for the thickness of a ferromagnetic, it is desirable to make it 20nm or less. This is because the maximum dense plane orientation will deteriorate if the thickness of a ferromagnetic exceeds 20nm.

[0030] Here, in the above-mentioned magnetic film which carried out the maximum dense plane orientation, if the magnetization direction inclines slightly out of maximum dense each one, Hc will increase rapidly. Therefore, since the magnetization direction may separate out of a field (111) even if it realizes the maximum dense plane orientation if a wave is in a substrate side, Hc has a possibility that it may not fall. For this reason, it is desirable that the surface roughness of a substrate is less than 5nm. In addition, in addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 1st invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of a nonmagnetic membrane and the ferromagnetic by turns.

[0031] In the 1st invention, when carrying out orientation of at least one sort of elements chosen from the group which consists of Co, Fe, and nickel to a film surface perpendicular direction, the maximum precise side, for example, the fcc phase (111) side, of the ferromagnetic used as a principal component, good soft magnetic characteristics are obtained. It sets in a fcc phase (111) side, and this is the crystal magnetic anisotropy K1. It is because the easy axis for which it depended does not appear. Moreover, by controlling the surface roughness of the

substrate which forms a ferromagnetic, the magnetization in a ferromagnetic can be sayed in maximum dense each one, and, thereby, the coercive force accompanying a crystal magnetic anisotropy can be reduced. Therefore, better soft magnetic characteristics are obtained. Moreover, the high sensitivity magneto-resistive effect element which has both the good soft magnetic characteristics coercive force (Hc) is [ soft magnetic characteristics ] to 100 A/m, the high resistance rate of change (\*\*R/R) (for example, a CoFe film \*\*R/R- 10%) exceeding a nonorientation film and other orientation (for example, fcc phase (100) orientation), and high permeability can be obtained by carrying out orientation of the less than 20 degrees of the rocking curve half-value width so that it may become 7 degrees or less desirably. [0032] In addition, the normal of the main crystal orientation side of a cascade screen may have a component within a film surface by fluctuation of a crystal orientation side, the component in this film surface may have the anisotropy, or the normal of the plane defect generated in a crystalline cascade screen may have the fluctuation into a film surface, and this fluctuation may have the anisotropy within the film surface here. The direction where such an anisotropy is strong is a direction where a ferromagnetic atom and a nonmagnetic atom tend to be intermingled in the atomic plane which carries out film growth. Therefore, it is thought by passing sense current in this direction, i.e., the direction in which the anisotropy by the component in a film surface becomes the largest, that the probability an electron carries out [ probability ] spin dependence dispersion by the interface becomes high.

[0033] That is, when the crystal orientation side of the ferromagnetic of cascade screen notes swings, or a plane defect is introduced, turbulence arises in atomic arrangement and turbulence arises in the atomic arrangement within a crystal orientation side, by passing sense current in the big direction of the turbulence, an electron will pass many interfaces and ferromagnetics equivalent, and the probability by which spin dependence dispersion is carried out becomes high. Thus, a magneto-resistive effect element shows bigger resistance rate of change by setting up the direction of sense current in the direction which meets in the direction of fluctuation of the crystal orientation side of a cascade screen.

[0034] The 2nd invention is the magneto-resistive effect element which possesses at least a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and the cascade screen to which it comes to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic one by one on a substrate. One [ at least ] ferromagnetic uses as a principal component at least two sorts of elements chosen from the group which consists of Co, Fe, and nickel. The magneto-resistive effect element to which at least one element chosen from the group which consists of Pd, aluminum, Cu, Ta, In, B, Nb, Hf, Mo, W, Re, Ru, Rh, Ga, Zr, Ir, Au, and Ag is characterized by having the presentation by which addition content was carried out is offered.

[0035] In addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 2nd invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of a nonmagnetic membrane and the ferromagnetic by turns.

[0036] In the 2nd invention, the addition content of an alloying element needs to be a range where the intermetallic compound which the ferromagnetism of the ferromagnetic which uses a CoFe alloy etc. as a principal component is not spoiled at a room temperature, and checks spin dependence dispersion is not generated. For example, when alloying elements are aluminum, Ga. and In, it is desirable that a content is less than [ 6.5at% ]. When alloying elements are Nb, Ta, Zr, Hf, B, Mo, and W, it is desirable that a content is less than [ 10at% ]. When alloying elements are Cu, Pd, Au, Ag, Re, Ru, Rh, and Ir, as for a content, it is desirable that it is less than [ 40at% ]. [0037] In the 2nd invention, the high sensitivity magneto-resistive effect element which has the good soft magnetic characteristics and 5% or more of \*\*R/R Hc is [ R/R ] to 100 A/m can be obtained by adding an alloying element which was mentioned above. Especially, in addition of aluminum, Ta, Zr, Nb, and Hf, soft magnetic characteristics are improved remarkably. In this case, although the reason soft magnetic characteristics become good is not clear for the moment, it is thought that the effect by reduction of a crystal magnetic anisotropy is also included in addition to what is depended on an improvement of crystal orientation. Furthermore, in Pd, Cu, Ag, and Au, even if it carries out addition content in large quantities to about 40at%, when an intermetallic compound does not generate and a lattice constant becomes large, lattice matching with middle nonmagnetic membranes, such as Cu, becomes good, and increase of spin dependence dispersion by the so-called bulk dispersion can be expected. For this reason, in addition to an improvement of soft magnetic characteristics, high \*\*R/R is maintainable. [0038] The cascade screen which, as for the 3rd invention, comes to form the ferromagnetic of a layer (n+1), and the nonmagnetic membrane of n layers by turns on a substrate It is a magneto-resistive effect element possessing (however, n shows the integer of 1-4), and the magneto-resistive effect element characterized by having adjoined at least one side of the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer of said cascade screen and the lowest layer, and carrying out laminating formation of the ferromagnetic whose resistivity is 50 or more microomegacm further is offered.

[0039] In the 3rd invention, the high resistance ferromagnetics whose resistivity is more than 50microomegacm may be any of a ferromagnetic or a ferry magnetic film. Moreover, the number of laminatings made the ferromagnetic the cascade screen of five or less layers because work of the interface of a high resistance ferromagnetic / ferromagnetic would fall relatively and \*\*R/R would not improve, if the number of the interfaces of a ferromagnetic/nonmagnetic membrane increased. Therefore, the 3rd invention is suitable for the magneto-resistive effect which has the film of spin bulb structure.

[0040] Thus, generating of the magnon in an interface can be controlled by carrying out a laminating so that a high resistance ferromagnetic may touch a ferromagnetic. As the result, reversal probability of the spin of the electron by the collision with a magnon and an electron can be made small, it becomes possible to make the resistance rate of change in a room temperature increase by this, and a high sensitivity magneto-resistive effect element can be realized. However, current will mainly flow the inside of this high resistance ferromagnetic as the resistivity of this high resistance ferromagnetic material is less than 50 microomegacm, and resistance rate of change will decrease conversely. If it puts in another way, when resistivity uses the ferromagnetic of 50 or more microomegacm, it can prevent that current is taken at a high resistance ferromagnetic, and decline in the magnetic-reluctance rate of change by the shunt effect will be suppressed.

[0041] As a material of a high resistance magnetic film, what added elements, such as Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Zn, Nb, Tc, Hf, Ta, W, and Re, is mentioned to nickel, Fe, Co, NiFe, NiFeCo, CoFe, Co alloy, etc.

[0042] As for a high resistance ferromagnetic, in the 3rd invention, it is desirable that it is a high resistance soft magnetism film. At this time, when an adjoining ferromagnetic and an adjoining high resistance soft magnetism film unify, magnetization rotation also of the magnetization of a ferromagnetic is similarly carried out with magnetization rotation of a high resistance soft magnetism film, for example, the amorphous film which has good soft magnetic characteristics. Thereby, the soft magnetic characteristics of a ferromagnetic are improved.

[0043] The high resistance soft magnetism film of the microcrystal which consists of the high

resistance amorphous film which consists of CoZrNb etc., FeZrN, CoZrN, etc. as a high resistance soft magnetism film, or the film which consists of a material which is the gap or one element chosen from the group which X becomes from Rh, Nb, Zr, Hf, Ta, Re, Ir, Pd, Pt, Cu, Mo, Mn, W, Ti, Cr, Au, and Ag in NiFeX can be used. moreover — if contiguity formation of the film which consists of a material which has in these the fcc phase which consists of an amorphous film, CoZrN, NiFeNb, etc. is carried out at the ferromagnetic of the lowest layer, since the fcc (111) orientation of the ferromagnetic on it will be promoted — more — this — it is desirable. [0044] As for the thickness of a high resistance ferromagnetic, it is desirable to be referred to as 0.5nm or more. This is because the magnetism of the high resistance ferromagnetic itself becomes it weak that thickness is less than 0.5nm and it becomes difficult to control generating of a magnon. On the other hand, when the soft magnetic characteristics of a high resistance ferromagnetic are inferior to the soft magnetic characteristics of the ferromagnetic which adjoins it, as for the thickness of a high resistance ferromagnetic, it is desirable that it is 10nm or less. This is because it will become difficult to affect the magnetization process of a ferromagnetic and to obtain soft magnetic characteristics if thickness exceeds 10nm.

[0045] The cascade screen which, as for the 4th invention, comes to form the ferromagnetic of a

layer (n+1), and the 1st nonmagnetic membrane of n layers by turns on a substrate It is a magneto-resistive effect element possessing (however, n shows the integer of 1-4). One [ at least ] thickness of the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer of said cascade screen and the lowest layer is 5nm or less, and the magneto-resistive effect element characterized by for this thickness having adjoined the ferromagnetic 5nm or less, and carrying out laminating formation of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane whose resistivity is 2 double less or equal of said ferromagnetic further is offered.

[0046] As for the material of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane, in the 4th invention, it is desirable to have the same crystal structure as the material of an adjoining ferromagnetic. That is, when a ferromagnetic consists of a material which has a fcc phase, the material which has a fcc phase also for the 1st nonmagnetic membrane is used preferably. At this time, it is desirable that the difference in the lattice constant between the material of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane and the material of a ferromagnetic is less than 5%. Especially when adjoining and forming the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane in the ferromagnetic of the lowest layer, by raising the crystal conformation of a ferromagnetic and the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane, it becomes possible to carry out epitaxial growth of the ferromagnetic, and, therefore, dispersion of the electron in an interface can be controlled.

[0047] What used as the principal component at least one sort of elements concretely chosen from the group which consists of Mn, Fe, nickel, Cu, aluminum, Pd, Pt, Rh, Ir, Au, and Ag as a material of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane can be used. Moreover, a substrate film may be made to intervene between a substrate and the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane.

[0048] As for the crystal of the material which constitutes a ferromagnetic from the 4th invention so that crystal growth may not be checked in each ferromagnetic, it is desirable for the diameter of crystal grain to be large in the direction of thickness. In addition, since a ferromagnetic has a possibility that the number of the interfaces of a ferromagnetic and a nonmagnetic membrane may increase, and a spin dependence scattering effect may disappear substantially when it exceeds five layers, the number of laminatings of a ferromagnetic is made into five or less layers.

[0049] As for the thickness of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane, in the 4th invention, it is desirable to consider as the range of 0.2–20nm. The probability for the electron which flowed that the thickness of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane was less than 0.2nm in the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane to receive inelastic scattering in an interface with a substrate etc. increases this. Even if it becomes difficult to develop a mean free path effectively and thickness exceeds 20nm conversely, while the effect beyond it is not acquired, it is because it becomes difficult for the current which flows only the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane to increase and to obtain big resistance rate of change.

[0050] When applying the magneto-resistive effect element of the 4th invention to a sensor, the material of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane needs to be the plate of 2 double less or equals, such as a CoFe alloy which is the material of a ferromagnetic, and it is desirable to have resistivity still smaller than a ferromagnetic. It is because the electron which flowed into the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane can receive dispersion, an effective mean free path cannot be kept long and increase of resistance rate of change cannot be desired, if this has the more remarkably [ than the resistivity of a ferromagnetic ] large resistivity of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane. Moreover, as for the material of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane, it is desirable for the resistivity to be 1/4 or more [ of the resistivity of a ferromagnetic ]. This is because current becomes it easy to flow only to the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane that the resistivity of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane material is less than [ of the resistivity of a ferromagnetic ] 1/4.

[0051] Even if such the 4th invention makes thickness of this ferromagnetic thin with 5nm or less by adjoining one [ at least ] ferromagnetic and carrying out the laminating of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane, it uses that an effective electronic mean free path can be kept long. For example, in the film of spin bulb structure, if thickness of a ferromagnetic is made thin, specific resistance will become large and resistance rate of change will decrease. Then, a ferromagnetic can be made thin, being able to flow now into the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane and keeping an effective mean free path long, while making the ferromagnetic thin without an electron receiving

inelastic scattering in the ferromagnetic surface by carrying out the laminating of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane in contact with the ferromagnetic made thin. In order to acquire the operation more than this time, the number of laminatings of a ferromagnetic needs to be five or less layers.

[0052] As mentioned above, even when the thickness of the ferromagnetic which causes a usually remarkable reduction of resistance rate of change in the 4th invention by carrying out the laminating of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane in contact with a ferromagnetic is 5nm or less, a magneto-resistive effect element with big resistance rate of change is obtained. And it becomes possible to suppress generating of a Barkhausen noise, without being able to control magnetic domain wall generating by the anti-magnetic field, and therefore the detection sensitivity of a signal magnetic field falling, even if it processes a ferromagnetic into a detailed configuration by having made thickness of a ferromagnetic thin with 5nm or less corresponding to high density magnetic-recording playback of the \*\* width of recording track. Consequently, the there are few noises and high sensitivity noises magneto-resistive effect element suitable for playback of high density record is realizable.

[0053] In addition, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 4th invention may have any of the film of spin bulb structure, and an artificial grid film. However, about a spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element, it is desirable that magnetization adjoins the ferromagnetic which has not fixed with an antiferromagnetism film etc., and carries out laminating formation of the 2nd ferromagnetic.

[0054] The 5th invention offers at least the magneto-resistive effect element which is a magneto-resistive effect element possessing a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and the cascade screen to which it comes to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic one by one, and is characterized by carrying out laminating formation of the thin film which adjoins at least one side of the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer of said cascade screen, and the lowest layer, and has larger resistivity than this ferromagnetic and a long mean free path further on a substrate.

[0055] the 5th invention — setting — as the material of a thin film — semimetals, such as Bi, Sb, and carbon, and high concentration — doping — carrying out — a degenerate semiconductor, SnO2, and TiO2 etc. — an oxide semiconductor etc. is mentioned. Moreover, as for the thickness of a thin film, it is desirable to consider as the range of 1–50nm. This is because it becomes difficult for the current which flows only a thin film to increase and to obtain big resistance rate of change while the enhancement effect of an electronic mean free path is not fully obtained as the thickness of a thin film is less than 1nm, and the effect beyond it is not acquired, even if thickness exceeds 50nm. Furthermore, current mainly flows the inside of the thin film concerned, and since a magneto—resistive effect becomes small at reverse, it is made for a thin film to have larger resistivity than a ferromagnetic, when the resistivity of a thin film is smaller than the resistivity of a ferromagnetic.

[0056] in addition, the 5th invention — being, a mean free path means the distance of the average which an electron moves, without being scattered on other objects.

[0057] In the 5th invention, as for the thickness of a ferromagnetic, it is desirable to be referred to as 5nm or less by the same reason as the 4th invention, when touching a thin film, and in order to secure a mean free path, as for the ferromagnetic which does not touch a thin film, it is desirable to consider as the range of 2-20nm.

[0058] Such the 5th invention uses that the effective mean free path of the whole cascade screen can be lengthened, when one [ at least ] ferromagnetic is touched and a mean free path carries out the laminating of the long thin film. For example, the following things are known as a physical device of the magneto-resistive effect in a spin bulb mold cascade screen. That is, by the spin bulb mold cascade screen, when the direction of the magnetization between two ferromagnetics is mutually parallel, conduction electron with one of the spin of spin parallel to magnetization or the spin of anti-parallel [ magnetization ] can have a long mean free path now by the whole film, and resistivity low as a whole is shown. on the other hand, the directions of the magnetization between two ferromagnetics are anti-parallel mutually — occasionally, the long conduction electron of a mean free path stops existing by the whole film, and resistivity

becomes high. The magneto-resistive effect in a spin bulb mold cascade screen is decided by the difference of the length of the mean free path in these two conditions.

[0059] furthermore, the electron which had parallel spin to magnetization in the interior of a ferromagnetic -- anti- -- by the electron with spin [ \*\*\*\* ], it is known that the mean free paths differ and the direction in which the electron of the spin direction which has a long mean free path inside a ferromagnetic from the cause mentioned above has a longer mean free path can enlarge the magneto-resistive effect of a spin bulb mold cascade screen. Then, in the 5th invention, when a mean free path carries out the laminating of the thin film longer than a ferromagnetic, it makes it possible to lengthen an effective electronic mean free path and to enlarge a magneto-resistive effect more. However, if the specific resistance of the abovementioned thin film is smaller than a ferromagnetic, the inside of the thin film in which current mainly carried out the laminating will be flowed, and a magneto-resistive effect will become small at reverse. Therefore, while the component of the above-mentioned thin film has a long mean free path, it is necessary to have the resistivity more than the resistivity of a ferromagnetic. [0060] Moreover, while using a material with large resistivity as a thin film with the abovementioned long mean free path, it becomes possible to make the resistivity as the whole cascade screen increase by making thin thickness of the ferromagnetic which touches it. The cascade screen which had high resistivity by this is obtained, and a big signal level can be taken out by low current density also in a detailed pattern. Therefore, it becomes possible to avoid problems, such as pyrexia and migration.

[0061] In addition, in addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 5th invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of a nonmagnetic membrane and the ferromagnetic by turns.

[0062] The 6th invention offers the magneto-resistive effect element characterized by coming further to carry out laminating formation of the substrate film which a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and a ferromagnetic are the magneto-resistive effect elements possessing the cascade screen which comes to carry out a laminating one by one, the ferromagnetic of the lowest layer of said cascade screen consists of a CoFe alloy, adjoins at least on a substrate at this ferromagnetic, and has a fcc phase with a larger lattice constant than a CoFe alloy.

[0063] In the 6th invention, when the ferromagnetic formed on the substrate film which has a fcc phase with a large lattice constant consists of a CoFe alloy, low [ Hc ] is realized, and it becomes remarkable about especially the ferromagnetic that consists of Co100-x Fex (5<=x<=40 atom %) improving soft magnetic characteristics. This is because a bcc phase will mix and a grid mismatch will happen, if a hcp phase mixes that Fe concentration is under pentatomic % and Fe concentration exceeds 40 atom % conversely. Moreover, as other elements which can be added to CoFe, Pd, aluminum, Cu, Ta, In, B, Zr, Nb, Hf, Mo, nickel, W, Re, Ru, Ir, Rh, Ga, Au, and Ag can be mentioned, and also when addition content of these elements is carried out, same Hc reduction is realized.

[0064] Although it will not be limited as a substrate film if a lattice constant is a larger material than CoFe in a fcc phase, it is [ in / the 6th invention ] desirable to use the material which has larger resistivity than the CoFr alloy which constitutes a ferromagnetic. Specifically, Cu, Pd, aluminum, etc. can use the alloy which makes nickel and these a principal component, or the ferromagnetic material which has a fcc phase. As for the thickness of this substrate film, it is desirable to be able to reduce Hc, if it is one or more atomic layers, and to be referred to as 100 morenm or less. However, since it becomes easy to shunt sense current toward a substrate film when a material with low resistivity, such as Cu, is used for a substrate film, it is desirable that thickness is especially 2nm or less. Moreover, between a substrate and a substrate film, it is desirable that the film for a smooth nature improvement is formed, and the film which consists of Cr, Ta, Zr, Ti, etc. as a film for a smooth nature improvement can be used for it.

[0065] Co100-x Fex which is a ferromagnetic on the substrate film which consists of a material which is a fcc phase and has a larger lattice constant than the material of a forcementatic by 6th

which is a fcc phase and has a larger lattice constant than the material of a ferromagnetic by 6th invention When a film (x< 0<100 atom %) is formed, a moderate lattice strain is guided to a CoFe film, as a result, Hc falls sharply, and good soft magnetic characteristics are shown. In addition,

this lattice strain is easily controllable by adjusting the thickness of not only the class of substrate film but a ferromagnetic, the thickness of a substrate film, etc. Therefore, if sequential formation of the ferromagnetic which has spin dependence scattering power force, such as nonmagnetic membranes, such as Cu, and a CoFe film, on this ferromagnetic, and the antiferromagnetism film is carried out, it will become the high sensitivity magneto-resistive effect element which produces a big resistance change by few signal magnetic fields. Here, when the resistivity of the substrate film formed on a substrate is larger than a ferromagnetic, splitting of the sense current to this substrate film can be controlled, and high resistance rate of change is shown. Furthermore, in order that this substrate film may not carry out film growth at the shape of a layer, when the smooth nature in a field side deteriorates and resistance rate of change falls, high resistance rate of change can be realized by making it intervene between substrate films and substrates which mentioned above another substrate film which has the work which carries out film growth in the shape of a layer.

[0066] In addition, in addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 6th invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of a nonmagnetic membrane and the ferromagnetic by turns.

[0067] The 7th invention is the magneto-resistive effect element which possesses at least a ferromagnetic, the 1st nonmagnetic membrane, and the cascade screen to which it comes to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic one by one on a substrate. The 2nd nonmagnetic membrane and ferromagnetic which have thickness which adjoins said 1st nonmagnetic membrane of one [ at least ] ferromagnetic and the principal plane of the opposite side, and is different from the 1st nonmagnetic membrane are formed by turns. The magneto-resistive effect element characterized by combining mutually magnetization of each ferromagnetic within the unit cascade screen which consists of these ferromagnetic and 2nd ferromagnetic in ferromagnetism is offered.

[0068] In the 7th invention, contiguity formation of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane and ferromagnetic may be carried out at least to the ferromagnetic of the both sides formed on both sides of the 1st nonmagnetic membrane, and you may be the ferromagnetic of a monolayer about one side of the 1st nonmagnetic membrane. Moreover, it is also possible to adjoin the 1st nonmagnetic membrane of a ferromagnetic and the principal plane of the opposite side, to form the two or more periods of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane and ferromagnetic by turns, and to constitute an unit cascade screen. As for the thickness of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane in an unit cascade screen, it is desirable that it is 2nm or less here, and it is desirable that it is the thickness of the degree to which the ferromagnetic which approaches still more nearly mutually does not carry out RKKY antiferromagnetism association. This is for maintaining magnetization of each ferromagnetic in the inside of an unit cascade screen at the ferromagnetic—like integrated state. For example, the material of a ferromagnetic is CoFe, and when the material of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane is Cu, the thickness of the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane is set up so that it may not be about 1nm.

[0069] Moreover, as for a ferromagnetic and the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane, it is desirable to maintain lattice matching and to grow up, i.e., for lattice matching of a ferromagnetic and the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane to be carried out, and for there to be no excessive dispersion in both interface. Thereby, the increment in resistance can be prevented.

[0070] In the 7th invention, soft magnetic characteristics are good, the adjustment of a grid is good, since it is combined in ferromagnetism, compared with an antiferromagnetism integrated state, the unit cascade screen which consists of a ferromagnetic and the 2nd nonmagnetic membrane has small resistance, and there are many interfaces of the ferromagnetic and nonmagnetic membrane which produce spin dependence dispersion. For this reason, the resistance rate-of-change increase by the so-called bulk dispersion in an unit cascade screen is expectable. Therefore, the artificial grid film using this unit cascade screen as a ferromagnetic unit and the film of spin bulb structure have good soft magnetic characteristics, and show the high resistance rate of change resulting from spin dependence dispersion. Consequently, a high sensitivity magneto-resistive effect element is obtained.

[0071] In addition, in addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive

effect element of the 7th invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of the 1st nonmagnetic membrane, unit cascade screen, or ferromagnetic by turns. Moreover, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 7th invention may have any of the film of spin bulb structure, and an artificial grid film.

[0072] The 8th invention is the magneto-resistive effect element which possesses at least a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and the cascade screen to which it comes to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic one by one on a substrate. It has the bias film formed in said cascade screen by adjoining or approaching as a bias magnetic field impression means to one [ at least ] ferromagnetic. And the bias magnetic field of the direction where the component of the truck cross direction serves as anti-parallel mutually, respectively is impressed to said two ferromagnetics, and the magneto-resistive effect element characterized by magnetization of said two ferromagnetics rotating to hard flow mutually by the signal magnetic field is offered. [0073] As a method of impressing a bias magnetic field which magnetization of two ferromagnetics rotates reversely mutually by the signal magnetic field in the 8th invention The method, the method more specifically using the switched connection from an antiferromagnetism film of adjoining or approaching a cascade screen and forming a bias film, The method using a hard magnetic film, the method of using the exchange bias produced by carrying out the laminating of the new ferromagnetic to the ferromagnetic which has the spin dependence scattering power force, etc., The bias magnetic field furthermore generated according to sense current and the method of using magnetostatic association (anti-magnetic field) emitted at the time of detailed pattern processing are adopted. However, a bias film which was mentioned above to one [ at least ] ferromagnetic is formed, and a bias magnetic field is impressed. Two ferromagnetics are adjoined, the laminating of the antiferromagnetism film is specifically carried out, respectively, and each ferromagnetic is magnetized so that the 180 degrees of the directions of a bias magnetic field may differ between adjacent ferromagnetics using this antiferromagnetism film. The magnetization in this case can be attained by changing 180 degrees of directions which add a static magnetic field at the time of membrane formation of a ferromagnetic and an antiferromagnetism film etc. As for the bias magnetic field added to an adjacent ferromagnetic here, it is desirable to single-domain-izing of a ferromagnetic that it is the less than magnitude of the necessity minimum, for example, 5 kA/m. Moreover, in order to impress the bias magnetic field of a mutually different direction to two ferromagnetics easily, as for both the antiferromagnetism film, it is desirable to have a Neel point different, respectively. [0074] Or there is also a method shown below. The exchange bias magnetic field by the laminating with an antiferromagnetism film is used for bias magnetic field impression to one ferromagnetic. On the other hand, the magnetostatic joint magnetic field (anti-magnetic field) generated when it is processed into a detailed pattern from the new ferromagnetic by which adjoined said ferromagnetic of an antiferromagnetism film and the principal plane of the opposite side, carried out the laminating of the new ferromagnetic, and magnetization fixing was carried out with the antiferromagnetism film is used for bias magnetic field impression to another ferromagnetic. In addition, as for this new ferromagnetic, it is desirable to consider as the twolayer structure which carried out the laminating so that ferromagnetic switched connection of another ferromagnetics B (for example, an amorphous ferromagnetic, nitriding or a carbonization microcrystal ferromagnetic of Co system, etc.) suitable for generating a magnetostatic joint magnetic field further with the ferromagnetic A suitable for exchange bias being added sequentially from the side which touches an antiferromagnetism film (for example, crystalline good films, such as NiFe and CoFe) might be carried out. With this two-layer structure, magnetostatic joint bias magnetic field strength and the so-called shunt bias (operating point bias) which generates Ferromagnetic B when a part of sense current flows can be adjusted by adjusting so that Bs may be low and resistance may become high about Bs and the resistance of a ferromagnetic according to the thickness of Ferromagnetic B, presentation adjustment, production conditions, etc. In addition, when a ferromagnetic consists of NiFe which has an anisotropy magneto-resistive effect, it is desirable to pass sense current in the direction of a signal magnetic field and the direction which intersects perpendicularly. That is, by the method which passes sense current in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with a signal

magnetic field, since it is superimposed on the usual anisotropy magneto-resistive effect which cannot be disregarded when a NiFe film etc. is used, and the resistance change by spin dependence dispersion, deltaR/R increases.

[0075] Moreover, although it sometimes becomes with a problem that that bias magnetic field is too large in impressing a bias magnetic field to a ferromagnetic using an antiferromagnetism film, this big bias magnetic field can be reduced by making the cascade screen of the ferromagnetic and nonmagnetic membrane which made the antiferromagnetism film side the ferromagnetic intervene between an antiferromagnetism film and a ferromagnetic etc.

[0076] In the 8th invention which was mentioned above, the magnetization between adjacent ferromagnetics changes with signal magnetic fields from an anti-parallel-condition to a parallelcondition steeply. Furthermore, the bias magnetic field from an antiferromagnetism film required in order to make anti-parallel the magnetization direction in the case of the signal magnetic field zero of both ferromagnetics etc. is controlled by the minimum required for Barkhausen noise control. For this reason, even when a signal magnetic field is added to the difficult shaft orientations suitable for the magnetic head (a RF property has advantages, such as fitness), the magnetization between both ferromagnetics changes with magnetization rotations of both ferromagnetics in the magnetic field range comparatively low to 0-180 degrees. Therefore, a comparatively low magnetic field range shows big resistance rate of change comparable as easy shaft orientations. In addition, in the 8th invention, if it is not necessary to necessarily consider mutually the direction of the bias magnetic field impressed to two ferromagnetics as anti-parallel and it is put in another way, the angle of the magnetization direction of both ferromagnetics and the direction of a signal magnetic field of [ in the case of signal magnetic field zero ] to make does not need to be set as +90 degrees and -90 degrees, respectively. It is desirable to specifically be set as within the limits whose angles of the magnetization direction of both the ferromagnetics in the case of signal magnetic field zero and a signal magnetic field to make are +30 degrees - 60 degrees and -30 degrees - 60 degrees, respectively. This reason is that operating point bias becomes unnecessary by leaning the magnetization direction of both the ferromagnetics in the case of signal magnetic field zero so that it may become within the limits which the angle with a signal magnetic field to make mentioned above from the anti-parallel condition.

[0077] Furthermore, although it is desirable to make thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane thin as much as possible since resistance rate of change will increase exponentially with the conventional spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element if the thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane becomes thin, in fact, if the thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane is set to less than 2nm, ferromagnetic-like association between vertical ferromagnetics will become strong, and there is a trouble that it becomes impossible to realize an antiferromagnetism-magnetization array and resistance rate of change falls sharply. However, in the 8th invention which adds a bias magnetic field to both ferromagnetics, since an antiferromagnetism-magnetization array is realizable with adjustment of anti-parallel bias magnetic field strength even if the thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane is set to less than 2nm, fast increase of resistance rate of change is expectable.

[0078] Moreover, since a bias magnetic field is added to two ferromagnetics, a magnetic domain wall disappears from all ferromagnetics, and a Barkhausen noise can be controlled.
[0079] In addition, in addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 8th invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of a nonmagnetic

membrane and the ferromagnetic by turns.

[0080] The 9th invention is the magneto-resistive effect element which possesses at least a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and the cascade screen to which it comes to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic one by one on a substrate. The magnetization fixing film with which the magnetization direction is substantially held even if, as for said two ferromagnetics, a signal magnetic field is impressed, respectively, And the magneto-resistive effect element characterized by becoming the magnetic field detection film which magnetization changes with signal magnetic fields and detects a signal magnetic field, and for the magnetization direction of said two ferromagnetics in the case of signal magnetic field zero carrying out the abbreviation

rectangular cross mutually, and energizing sense current in the direction of a signal magnetic field is offered.

[0081] In the 9th invention, the method of carrying out a laminating as a method of making magnetization of a magnetization fixing film fixing, so that switched connection of the antiferromagnetism film may be carried out to a magnetization fixing film, the method of attaining high Hc-ization of a magnetization fixing film, and the method of carrying out the laminating of the ferromagnetic which has high [ Hc ] to a magnetization fixing film are mentioned. Moreover, the method of giving switched-connection bias for example, with a weak 5 or less kA/m degree etc. is mentioned in the method of giving the easy axis of a magnetic field detection film as a method of making the magnetization direction of a magnetization fixing film and a magnetic field detection film in the case of signal magnetic field zero intersecting perpendicularly mutually so that it may intersect perpendicularly with magnetization of a magnetization fixing film, and the direction which adjoin or approach a magnetic field detection film, form a bias film, and intersect perpendicularly with magnetization of a magnetization fixing film. In addition, even when a magnetic field detection film consists of CoFe which has a big bias magnetic field especially according to the latter method, by giving the easy axis of a magnetic field detection film in magnetization of a magnetization fixing film, and the abbreviation same direction, and giving the switched-connection bias exceeding the anisotropy field of CoFe a little to the film-surface inboard which intersects perpendicularly with this easy axis, the magnetic anisotropy of a magnetic field detection film can be reduced, and it becomes possible to obtain big resistance rate of change in a magnetic field range low as a result.

[0082] If the angle which magnetization of a magnetization fixing film and a signal magnetic field detection film makes in the condition of the signal magnetic field 0 is set as about 90 degrees in the 9th invention for example, when magnetization of a magnetization fixing film is suitable in the direction of a positive signal magnetic field Since the angle which the magnetization between the ferromagnetics which adjoin each other in a positive signal magnetic field makes becomes in ferromagnetism, resistance falls, and since the angle which the magnetization between the ferromagnetics which adjoin reverse by the negative signal magnetic field makes becomes in antiferromagnetism, resistance goes up. That is, operating point bias becomes unnecessary. [0083] Furthermore, magnetization of a magnetic field detection film inclines by energizing sense current in the direction of a signal magnetic field towards the direction which intersects perpendicularly with a signal magnetic field by the current magnetic field. Therefore, a Barkhausen noise can be controlled for the current magnetic field which joins a magnetic field detection film. Moreover, since there is a current magnetic field in this case, in a magnetic field detection film, an easy axis is not necessarily needed.

[0084] In addition, in addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 9th invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of a nonmagnetic membrane and the ferromagnetic by turns.

[0085] The 10th invention is the magneto-resistive effect element which possesses at least a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and the cascade screen to which it comes to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic one by one on a substrate. The magnetization fixing film with which the magnetization direction is substantially held even if, as for said two ferromagnetics, a signal magnetic field is impressed, respectively, And the magneto-resistive effect element to which the angle theta which serves as a magnetic field detection film which the magnetization direction changes with signal magnetic fields, and detects a signal magnetic field, and the magnetization direction of said two ferromagnetics in the case of signal magnetic field zero makes is characterized by 30-degree or more being 60 degrees or less is offered. [0086] In the 10th invention, there is the method of using as a high coercive force film the ferromagnetic used as the method of using the exchange bias produced by carrying out the laminating of the antiferromagnetism film to a magnetization fixing film like the 9th invention as a method of making magnetization of a magnetization fixing film fixing, or a magnetization fixing film etc. Moreover, as a bias magnetic field impression means to a magnetic field detection film, the current magnetic field from magnetostatic bias and sense current generated from the ferromagnetic which adjoined or approached and was formed in the bias magnetic field from the

hard magnetic film which adjoined or approached and was formed in the easy axis of a magnetic field detection film and the magnetic field detection film, and said antiferromagnetism film can be used. In addition, in order to use the current magnetic field from sense current, it is required for the almost same direction as a signal magnetic field to energize sense current. However, it is desirable to energize sense current in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with a signal magnetic field so that it may be added in the direction as the magnetization direction of a magnetization fixing film where the current magnetic field from sense current is almost the same from a viewpoint which makes magnetization fix stably in a magnetization fixing film. [0087] In the 10th invention, since the angle theta of the magnetization fixing film and magnetic field detection film in the case of signal magnetic field zero to make was set as less than 30-60 degrees. Barkhausen noise removal can be performed by the leakage magnetic field from a magnetization fixing film, making operating point bias unnecessary. The angle theta of a magnetization fixing film and a magnetic field detection film which were mentioned above by the 10th invention to make was set as 30 degrees - 60 degrees because there was a possibility that Barkhausen noise removal cannot fully be performed when a linearity response magnetic field range [ as opposed to / that angle theta is less than 30 degrees / a signal magnetic field ] exceeds narrowing and 60 degrees.

[0088] Here, in passing sense current in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with a signal magnetic field, the direction of the ferromagnetic-like joint magnetic field between two ferromagnetics and the direction of a current magnetic field are on the same shaft. Consequently, if sense current is passed so that the ferromagnetic-like joint direction and this direction of a current magnetic field of [ between the adjacent ferromagnetics which cause a permeability fall ] may turn into the abbreviation same direction, since it will rotate in the magnetization direction of a ferromagnetic in which magnetization fixing of the magnetization direction of the ferromagnetic by which magnetization fixing is not carried out is carried out in this case, the angle of magnetization of both ferromagnetics to make decreases. Consequently, even if it uses the material in which an anisotropy magneto-resistive effect is shown as a ferromagnetic, it is superimposed on the resistance change by the anisotropy magneto-resistive effect and spin dependence dispersion, and increase of sensitivity can be expected. On the contrary, if sense current is passed so that the ferromagnetic-like joint direction and the direction of a current magnetic field may turn into hard flow, since the angle which both ferromagnetics make will increase in this case, the linearity \*\*\*\*\* range to a signal magnetic field is expandable. Therefore, it is desirable to choose the energization direction of sense current suitably according to the material of a ferromagnetic etc.

[0089] In addition, in addition to the above-mentioned configuration, the magneto-resistive effect element of the 10th invention may carry out the multiple-times laminating of a nonmagnetic membrane and the ferromagnetic by turns.

[0090] The 11th invention offers at least the magneto-resistive effect element which is a magneto-resistive effect element for which a ferromagnetic, a nonmagnetic membrane, and a ferromagnetic possess the cascade screen which comes to carry out a laminating one by one, and is characterized by having a bias film more than two-layer [ by which laminating formation was carried out by adjoining or approaching at said cascade screen ] as a bias magnetic field impression means to said two ferromagnetics on a substrate.

[0091] In the 11th invention, a bias film may be formed, respectively between the ferromagnetic of the lowest layer, and the substrate on the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer of a cascade screen, may be formed more than two-layer on the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer of a cascade screen, and may be formed more than two-layer between the ferromagnetic of the lowest layer, and a substrate.

[0092] In the 11th invention, an antiferromagnetism film or a ferromagnetic can be mentioned as said bias film, and the current magnetic field from sense current etc. is impressed to the switched connection magnetic field from such an antiferromagnetism film, the switched connection magnetic field from a ferromagnetic or a magnetostatic joint magnetic field, and a pan as a bias magnetic field at the ferromagnetic in a cascade screen. In addition, when generating a switched connection magnetic field from the ferromagnetic as a bias film, the film which reduces

exchange bias between the ferromagnetic of a cascade screen and the ferromagnetic as a bias film may be arranged, or the ferromagnetic as the bias film may be directly formed on the ferromagnetic of a cascade screen here. However, in the case of the former, it is desirable that the uniaxial anisotropy magnetic field Hk of a bias film is larger than the uniaxial anisotropy magnetic field Hk of the ferromagnetic of a cascade screen, and it is desirable that the coercive force Hc of a bias film is larger than the coercive force Hc of the ferromagnetic of a cascade screen.

[0093] It is desirable to add a bias magnetic field to which the magnetization does not move by the signal magnetic field substantially to one of the ferromagnetics of the maximum upper layer or the lowest layer in the 11th invention, to add the bias magnetic field which considers as a magnetization fixing film, can detect a signal magnetic field to another side, and can remove a Barkhausen noise, and to consider as a magnetic field detection film. The laminating of an antiferromagnetism film is suitable for bias magnetic field impression to the magnetization fixing film at this time. Moreover, the laminating of a ferromagnetic or an antiferromagnetism film is suitable for bias magnetic field impression to a magnetic field detection film. Here, the film which has high uniaxial magnetic anisotropy, such as a soft magnetism film of high resistance with which it was single-domain-ized by some methods, such as Co system amorphous film which heat-treated in rotating magnetic field, and the magnetization direction was equal to the one direction, and an amorphous film of a Co [ which heat-treated in the static magnetic field ], or CoFe system, or a high coercive force film fits the ferromagnetic as a bias film. moreover, high which was single-domain-ized even if it formed the ferromagnetic used as a bias film more broadly than other films and carried out the laminating of a hard magnetic film or the antiferromagnetism film to the edge section ] — a soft magnetism film [ \*\*\*\* ] is realizable. [0094] In the 11th invention, by adjoining or approaching a cascade screen which mentioned the two-layer bias film above at least, and carrying out laminating formation further, in order to remove a Barkhausen noise for a strong bias magnetic field which enables magnetization fixing to a specific ferromagnetic to other specific ferromagnetics, it becomes possible to add a necessary minimum bias magnetic field. At this time, there is an advantage which the multilayers which include a bias film by continuation membrane formation put in block can produce easily in a short time compared with the case where form only a magnetic field detection film more broadly than other magnetization fixing films etc., for example, and the laminating of the bias film is carried out to that edge section, by the 11th invention by which laminating formation of the bias film more than two-layer is carried out. This is based on it being very difficult for thickness to leave only the edge section of the magnetic field detection film which is about 1-20nm, to remove the edge sections, such as other magnetization fixing films, and to form only a magnetic field detection film broadly.

[0095] Furthermore, if the bias magnetic field impressed to a ferromagnetic with a here two-layer bias film is made to intersect perpendicularly, the angle which the magnetization direction of the magnetization fixing film in the case of signal magnetic field zero and a magnetic field detection film makes like the 9th invention will become about 90 degrees, and operating point bias will become unnecessary. Moreover, the bias magnetic field which joins a magnetic field detection film can remove a Barkhausen noise, and the magnitude of a bias magnetic field can control by adjustment of the interface of the magnetic anisotropy of a bias film, thickness or a cascade screen, and a bias film easily. And if it impresses in the direction and the abbreviation rectangular cross direction of an easy axis of a ferromagnetic by the bias magnetic field, membranous permeability can be raised also about the ferromagnetic which consists of a Co system material in which high Hk is shown.

[0096] Moreover, the 11th invention is preferably applicable also to the magneto-resistive effect element from which the cascade screen in which it comes to form the ferromagnetic of three layers and a two-layer nonmagnetic membrane by turns is provided on a substrate, the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer and the lowest layer turns into a magnetization fixing film, and the ferromagnetic of the center where permeability is high turns into a magnetic field detection film.

[0097] Since magnetization has fixed the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer, and the

ferromagnetic of the lowest layer in such a magneto-resistive effect element by the bias film more than two-layer [by which adjoined or approached low permeability, i.e., a cascade screen. and laminating formation was carried out further ], change of the magnetization direction over a signal magnetic field is slight. On the other hand, since a central ferromagnetic has high permeability, it produces big magnetization rotation by few magnetic fields. Consequently, the angle which magnetization of the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer and the ferromagnetic of the lowest layer and magnetization of a central ferromagnetic make changes with signal magnetic fields sharply. Moreover, the number of interfaces which produces spin dependence dispersion compared with the film of the conventional spin bulb structure increases twice [ at least ]. For this reason, a big resistance change is obtained by few magnetic fields. [0098] In addition, since deltaR/R falls sharply since an antiferromagnetism film has high resistivity, but an antiferromagnetism film can be arranged besides a spin dependence dispersion unit when fixing magnetization of the ferromagnetic of the maximum upper layer and the lowest layer if magnetization of a central ferromagnetic is fixed with bias films, such as an antiferromagnetism film, and permeability is reduced, magnetization fixing is attained, without reducing deltaR/R.

[0099] Furthermore, since the ferromagnetic of high permeability exists near the center of the cascade screen of spin bulb structure, the problem by which the magnetization array of a ferromagnetic which the current magnetic field from sense current becomes weak, consequently serves as a magnetic field detection film by the current magnetic field is disturbed is also avoidable.

[0100] The 12th invention offers the magneto-resistive effect element characterized by providing the high coercive force film with which a hexagonal C shaft exists in a film surface on a substrate, and the ferromagnetic which has coercive force lower than said high coercive force film.

[0101] In the 12th invention, the usual high coercive force film can control forming a low coercive force film into high coercive force by strong magnetostatic association by the crystal magnetic anisotropy of a film surface perpendicular direction. Thereby, when this high coercive force film is used as the magnetization fixing film in the film of spin bulb structure, the soft magnetic characteristics of the magnetic field detection film which detects a signal magnetic field are not degraded. Moreover, the parallel condition of magnetization and an anti-parallel condition are efficiently realizable, and since nonmagnetic membrane thickness in a cascade screen can be further made remarkably thin, resistance rate of change can be increased. In addition, the multiple-times laminating of the high coercive force film and nonmagnetic membrane as a magnetization fixing film may be carried out by turns here.

[0102] Furthermore, since the single crystal's high coercive force film has low electric resistance, even when it considers as a cascade screen with a low coercive force film, it cannot influence spin dependence dispersion but can increase an output. Furthermore, since this single crystal's of the high coercive force film has a high crystal magnetic anisotropy, it has high permeability (it is hard to move magnetization), and its effect of magnetization fixing is large. [0103] Moreover, in the 12th invention, a high coercive force film may be used as a bias film for impressing a bias magnetic field to a ferromagnetic. Also when it uses as a bias film for making magnetization of a magnetization fixing film fix at this time, for example, a high coercive force film, the soft magnetic characteristics of the magnetic field detection film which detects a signal magnetic field are not degraded. Furthermore, this high coercive force film can be used also as a bias film which makes the back-coupling condition of magnetization, when there are no bias film and signal magnetic field for the cure against a Barkhausen noise, and it can also give both functions to coincidence. Furthermore, the 12th invention is applicable not only to the magnetoresistive effect element possessing the cascade screen which comes to form a ferromagnetic and a nonmagnetic membrane by turns on a substrate but the magneto-resistive effect element using anisotropy magneto-resistive effects, such as a NiFe alloy.

[0104] Hereafter, the example of this invention is explained concretely.

[0105] (Example 1) What ground the silicon-on-sapphire C side (alpha-aluminum 2 O3 field of a substrate (0001)) by the mechanochemical-polishing method, and was made into the mirror plane

condition was used until average surface irregularity was set to about 2nm as a substrate with the sensing-pin type surface roughness plan which has the sensing-pin tip radius of 0.2 micrometers.

[0106] This silicon on sapphire was laid in the vacuum chamber, and the inside of a vacuum chamber was exhausted to 5x10 to 7 or less Torrs. Then, by introducing Ar gas in a vacuum chamber and performing sputtering into the static magnetic field of about 4000 A/m by setting the inside of a vacuum chamber to about 3 mTorr As shown in drawing 1 Sequential membrane formation of Co90Fe10 film 11 which is a ferromagnetic, the Cu film 12 which is a middle nonmagnetic membrane, Co90Fe10 film 11 which is a ferromagnetic, the FeMn film 13 which is an antiferromagnetism film, and the Ti film 14 which is a protective coat is carried out on silicon on sapphire 10. The cascade screen of the spin bulb structure which becomes Ti5 nm/FeMn8 nm/Co90Fe108 nm/Cu2.2 nm/Co90Fe108nm was produced, and the magneto-resistive effect element was obtained. Furthermore, the Cu lead 15 was formed on this cascade screen. In addition, the presentation of a CoFe system alloy film is what big resistance rate of change is shown for [the Magnetics Society of Japan and 16,313 (1992)]. And it was referred to as Co90Fe10 from the point of soft magnetic characteristics.

[0107] Here, as a material of a protective coat, non-magnetic material, such as Cu, Cr, W, SiN, and TiN, can be used in addition to Ti. In addition, in order to prevent oxidation of FeMn, it is desirable to use materials other than an oxide. Moreover, as long as the thickness of the Ti film 14 has a protective effect, you may not be 5nm, but in order to prevent the sensitivity fall by splitting to the Ti film 14 at the time of passing sense current, it is desirable for thickness to be dozens of nm or less in consideration of having high electrical resistivity compared with Co90Fe10 film 11.

[0108] Magnetization fixing is carried out by FeMn and Co90Fe10 film 11 which touches the FeMn film 13 does flux reversal and rotation of another Co90Fe10 film 11 according to an external magnetic field. although the thickness of Co90Fe10 film 11 which is a ferromagnetic set to 8nm also with two-layer, even if the thickness of a two-layer ferromagnetic is the same, it may differ. Although the ferromagnetic is theoretically usable if the thickness is more than 1 atomic layer (0.2nm), 0.5–20nm is appropriate on practical use of MR element.

[0109] Although the thickness of the Cu film 12 formed between two Co90Fe10 films 11 was formed by 2.2nm at this example, except this thickness is sufficient as it, and its 0.5–20nm is desirable practically. Moreover, Au, Ag, Ru, Cu alloy, etc. can be used as materials other than Cu.

[0110] The FeMn film 13 which is an antiferromagnetism film is used for magnetization fixing of Co90Fe10 film 11 which touches directly. Although it is usable if there is about 1nm or more of this thickness, it is desirable that it is 2nm – 50nm from reliability and practicality. In addition, nickel oxide can also be used as a material of an antiferromagnetism film in addition to FeMn. When using nickel oxide as a material of an antiferromagnetism film, sputtering can be performed in Ar and the mixed-gas ambient atmosphere of oxygen, or the antiferromagnetism film of good nickel oxide can be formed by applying the ion beam spatter method, the dual ion beam spatter method, etc. Moreover, since nickel oxide film can be formed good on a silicon-on-sapphire C side, it can also use spin bulb structure as 50nm of Ti5 nm/Co90Fe108 nm/Cu2.2 nm/Co90Fe108 nm/nickel oxides. In this case, if the thickness of nickel oxide film is 1nm or more, it can give the stable bias magnetic field to Co90Fe10 film.

[0111] The crystal structure was investigated in the magnetic properties of a magneto-resistive effect element, resistance rate of change, and a list. In addition, magnetic properties were measured by maximum impression magnetic field 1.2 MA/m with the oscillatory type magnetometer (VSM), and resistance rate of change was measured by 4 terminal resistance measurement method in the static magnetic field. The crystal structure was measured with the theta-2theta scan and the rocking curve X-ray diffraction method. In VSM and the X diffraction, it measured about the film by which patterning of the resistance rate of change was carried out to the shape of a 1mmx8mm stripe with the metal mask about the film by which patterning was carried out to 8mm angle with the metal mask. The resistance change in the magnetic field of a magneto-resistive effect element was measured with the four probe method.

[0112] The measurement result of a magneto-resistive effect element is shown in drawing 2. When the external magnetic field was impressed in the direction of an easy axis so that drawing 2 might show, the maximum resistance rate of change was about 10%. Moreover, the coercive force of this magneto-resistive effect element was 160 or less A/m. Thus, this magneto-resistive effect element is the weak magnetic field of about 160 A/m, and it turned out that about 10% of big resistance change is obtained, and good soft magnetic characteristics and high resistance rate of change were obtained. Moreover, although resistance rate of change was about 4% when the external magnetic field was impressed in the direction of a hard axis, 80 A/m and soft magnetic characteristics of coercive force were very good.

[0113] Moreover, the magnetization curve of this magneto-resistive effect element is shown in drawing 3 (A) and drawing 3 (B). As drawing 3 (A) shows, it turns out that the coercive force of about 160 A/m and the direction of a hard axis of the coercive force of the direction of an easy axis is about 80 A/m. Moreover, as drawing 3 (B) shows, in the direction of an easy axis, it turns out that the exchange bias of about 5.3 kA/m is impressed to Co90Fe10 film which touches FeMn.

[0114] Moreover, the crystal structure of this magneto-resistive effect element showed strong fcc phase (111) plane orientation (the maximum dense plane orientation).

[0115] The Ti/FeMn/CoFe/Cu/CoFe film was formed like the above on the thermal oxidation Si substrate. As a result of evaluating like the above about this, the maximum \*\*\*\* peak of an X diffraction fell or less to 1/10 compared with the above-mentioned case, and it is 3000 A/m in easy shaft orientations, and Hc is a high value with application difficult for a magneto-resistive effect element, and showed 8% or less of value also with resistance rate of change smaller than the above-mentioned orientation (111) film.

[0116] Next, the Ti/FeMn/CoFe/Cu/CoFe film was produced like the above on the MgO (100) substrate. As a result of evaluating like the above about this, the X diffraction peak showed only the high intensity (100) peak, i.e., good (100) orientation. At this time, Hc was 1200 A/m in easy shaft orientations, showed the high value with application difficult for a magneto-resistive effect element, and showed 8% or less of value also with resistance rate of change smaller than the above-mentioned orientation (111) film.

[0117] The above thing shows that low [ Hc ] and high resistance rate of change are realizable, when orientation (111) is realized.

[0118] Next, when the magneto-resistive effect element of the spin bulb structure which becomes Ti5 nm/FeMn8 nm/Co8 nm/Cu2.2 nm/Co8nm using Co film as a ferromagnetic was produced on the sapphire C side substrate and magnetic properties and resistance rate of change were measured like the above, the same maximum dense plane orientation and resistance rate of change showed about 8% of value, and there was about 800 A/m of coercive force. In addition, in the thermal oxidation Si substrate, it was Hc=2000 A/m \*\*R/R=7%. [0119] Although low [ Hc ] and high \*\*R/R are obtained even if it uses Co as a material of a ferromagnetic from these results, as a material of a ferromagnetic, it is easy to generate soft magnetic characteristics in Co, they have become it by using the alloy which added Fe, and it is more desirable.

[0120] Furthermore, it is Co100-x Fex about the magneto-resistive effect element of the spin bulb mold which consists of Ti5 nm/FeMn8 nm/Co100-x Fex 8 nm/Cu2.2 nm/Co100-x Fex 8 nm / a sapphire C side, or a glass substrate. The Fe concentration x (atomic %) of a ferromagnetic was changed, and was produced. The relation between \*\*R/R obtained as a result and Hc is shown in the following table 1. As shown in a table 1, on a sapphire C side, it is clear that increase of remarkable Hc reduction and \*\*R/R is realized in 5<=x<=40.

[A table 1]

			,
x (原子%)	基 板	Нс	∆R∕R
		(A/m)	(%)
5	<b>タファイア C面</b>	400	9 5
10	f7717 C面	160	1 0 ·
15	<b>タファイア C面</b>	240	12
20	<b>サファイア C面</b>	420	11
30	<b>サファイア C面</b>	400	10.5
40	サファイア C面	700	9
6 0	サファイア C面	1000	.6
5	ガラス基板	2800	7. 5
10	ガラス基板	3000	8
15	ガラス基板	1800	7. 5
20	ガラス基板	1500	7
3 0	ガラス基板	1700	7
40	ガラス基板	2500	7. 5
60	ガラス基板	3000	6

(Example 2) On C side of silicon on sapphire, and the glass substrate (# by Corning, Inc. 0211), Cu substrate film with a thickness of 10nm was formed on the field (111) of Si substrate, and Co90Fe10 film was further formed on the respectively same membrane formation conditions as an example 1 on it. In addition, Cu substrate film can be formed with the bias sputtering method, the ion beam sputtering method, vacuum deposition which carried out ion assistance, etc. The coercive force (Hc) of this Co90Fe10 film was measured. Moreover, various thickness of Co90Fe10 film was changed and formed through Cu substrate film on said each substrate, and the coercive force (Hc) of the Co90Fe10 film was measured. The result is shown in drawing 6. Furthermore, Co90Fe10 film of various thickness was formed like the above, without forming Cu substrate film on said substrate, and the coercive force (Hc) was measured, respectively. The result is shown in drawing 7.

[0122] When Cu substrate film is formed also in which substrate ( drawing 6 ), Hc lower than the case where there is no Cu substrate film is shown so that drawing 6 and drawing 7 may show. Moreover, it turns out that Hc is low in order of C side of silicon on sapphire, the field (111) of Si substrate, and a glass substrate, and it is good irrespective of the existence of Cu substrate film. When Co90Fe10 film with a thickness of 8nm was especially formed in C side of silicon on sapphire through Cu substrate film, low [ of 80 or less A/m / Hc ] was shown. In addition, Hc of Co90Fe10 film which has Cu substrate film showed the orientation which increases slightly according to the increment in thickness of Co90Fe10 film. On the other hand, Hc of Co90Fe10 film without Cu substrate film decreased with the increment in thickness first, and showed the orientation which increases as thickness increases further. For example, when the thickness of Co90Fe10 film was about 8nm, the minimal value of Hc was 160 or less A/m.

[0123] Thus, in case a ferromagnetic is formed on a substrate, by forming a substrate film among both shows that good soft magnetic characteristics can be obtained.

[0124] Moreover, by using a CuNi alloy film as a substrate film in the case of forming Co90Fe10 film and Co film on C side of silicon on sapphire or Si substrate showed that good soft magnetic characteristics were obtained. Moreover, by using number -100nm germanium, Si, or Ti film as a substrate film in the case of forming Co90Fe10 film and Co film on a glass substrate or a ceramic substrate showed that the maximum dense plane orientation was promoted, consequently good soft magnetic characteristics could be obtained.

[0125] Moreover, splitting of MR sense current can be prevented by using for a substrate film

the material which is high resistance from Co90Fe10 film or Co film. For example, since nickel oxide film described in the example 1 is high resistance and it is the antiferromagnetism film which can carry out epitaxial growth on C side of silicon on sapphire, it can serve both as a substrate film and an antiferromagnetism bias film. The magneto-resistive effect element of the spin bulb structure where nickel oxide film 26 was used for drawing 8 is shown.

[0126] (Example 3) The effect of field bearing of the silicon on sapphire exerted on the coercive force which Co90Fe10 film shows was investigated. At this example, C side and the Rth page (alpha-aluminum 2 O3 field of a substrate (1012)) compared.

[0127] Co90Fe10 film of 10nm of thickness was formed on C side of silicon on sapphire, and the Rth page, respectively. The difference in the crystal orientation by this field bearing is shown in drawing 9 (A) and drawing 9 (B). On C side, good fcc (111) orientation could be realized and the CoFe alloy film with which coercive force, as a result, has 160 or less A/m and good soft magnetic characteristics has been formed so that drawing 9 (A) might show. On the Rth page, the peak of fcc (200) is detected besides the peak of fcc (111), and fcc (111) orientation is not so good so that drawing 9 (B) may show on the other hand. For this reason, there is hundreds of or more A/m coercive force, and good soft magnetic characteristics were not obtained. [0128] Only in the peak corresponding to a fcc phase (111) side, in drawing 9 (A), (some hcp phase (001) plane orientation may be included) has appeared strongly near 2 theta= 43.5 degree in addition to the peak of the sapphire which is a substrate in respect of C. Moreover, Co90Fe10 film showed low coercive force, so that this peak intensity was strong. On the other hand, in drawing 9 (B), the peak corresponding to a fcc phase (200) side has appeared near 2 theta= 52.6 degree in the Rth page in addition to the peak of sapphire, and the fcc phase (111) side peak. Existence of this fcc phase (100) plane orientation means that the crystal magnetic-anisotropy easy shaft has appeared in a field, and this becomes the cause of raising coercive force. [0129] Next, the rocking curve was measured about the peak corresponding to the field (111) (the maximum \*\*\*\*) of Co90Fe10 film on C side of this silicon on sapphire. The rocking curve is shown in drawing 10. The orientation where half-value width is very as strong as about 3 degrees can be checked with a peak of near theta= 21.8 degree so that drawing 10 may show. Although the peak of silicon on sapphire is also overlapped by this rocking curve, the good crystal orientation of Co90Fe10 film can be checked.

[0130] Next, correlation with the coercive force of Co90Fe10 film and the half-value width in the rocking curve of the peak corresponding to the field (111) (the maximum \*\*\*\*) of Co90Fe10 film is shown in drawing 11. When Co90Fe10 film was formed on the glass substrate so that drawing 11 might show, the peak (111) was feeble in many cases, rocking curve half-value width was 20 degrees or more, and Hc was 3000 or more A/m. Moreover, if Ar pressure and substrate temperature are optimized and the half-value width of a rocking curve becomes about 15 degrees, Hc will decrease to about 1000 A/m. If the film set to this Co90Fe10 from the material which added about 1% in aluminum is formed on a glass substrate, half-value width will decrease at about 8 degrees, and Hc will serve as a 350 A/m degree. Moreover, by forming Co90Fe10 film on C side of silicon on sapphire, further, half-value width decreases at about 3 degrees, and Hc serves as an about 160 A/m degree. Therefore, it follows on the half-value width of the rocking curve of the peak corresponding to the maximum \*\*\*\* (in the case of Co90Fe10 film (111) field) decreasing at less than 20 degrees, and can check that it is in the orientation for coercive force to decrease rapidly. For example, it turns out that the half-value width of a rocking curve approaches a value with as good coercive force as 160 A/m at 7 degrees or less. That is, the coercive force of Co90Fe10 film declines as the maximum dense plane orientation of Co90Fe10 film becomes strong. Thus, it turns out that good soft magnetic characteristics have correlation strongly with the amount of preferred orientation of a ferromagnetic.

[0131] As a method of strengthening the maximum dense plane orientation of Co90Fe10 film, as mentioned above, some methods, such as the method of forming membranes with ultra-high-vacuum membrane formation equipments, such as a method of adding the various alloying elements later mentioned to the 1st, the method of choosing a substrate material and bearing as the 2nd, a method of preparing a substrate film between the 3rd substrate and Co90Fe10 film, and MBE, are mentioned [4th]. In addition, in the 2nd method, when C side of silicon on

sapphire was used for a substrate, by grinding the field by the mechanochemical polish and float polish or the ion polish, and setting average surface roughness (Ra) of a substrate to 2nm or less showed that Co90Fe10 film formed on it showed still better soft magnetic characteristics. However, the average surface roughness of the coercive force of Co90Fe10 film was 1000 or more A/m in 5nm or more.

(Example 4) In the example 3, by strengthening the maximum dense plane orientation by the 1st and 2nd methods about the monolayer of Co90Fe10 film showed that coercive force declined. Next, it checks whether it can say that the same is said of the cascade screen containing Co90Fe10 film.

[0132] The cascade screen of aluminum content Co90Fe1010 nm/Cu5 nm/aluminum content Co90Fe1010nm was formed on the same membrane formation conditions as an example 1 on the glass substrate. The relation between aluminum element addition in the Co90Fe10 film in this case and the coercive force of Co90Fe10 film is shown in drawing 12. It turns out that coercive force can be reduced by addition of aluminum element also in a cascade screen so that drawing 12 may show. Moreover, orientation of the maximum \*\*\*\* of Co90Fe10 film in a cascade screen was able to be similarly strengthened by the 2nd to 4th method shown in the example 2. [0133] Next, the maximum \*\*\*\* peak intensity dependency of the coercive force of Co90Fe10 film in a cascade screen is shown in drawing 13. Although coercive force is declining, it can check, so that drawing 13 may show and the maximum \*\*\*\* peak intensity becomes large [ field / of monolayer ] at him. In the case of the above-mentioned structure, peak intensity is 102 (a. u.). It is weak and coercive force is a 103 A/m degree. In this case, coercive force fell to the hundreds A/m degree by using the film which consists of a material which added aluminum to Co90Fe10 the 1 atom % grade. Moreover, it is 103 (a. u.) by replacing a glass substrate with C side of silicon on sapphire. The above peak intensity and the good coercive force of 100 or less A/m were acquired. In addition, the half-value width at this time was 7 degrees or less. [0134] (Example 5) Alloying elements other than aluminum were added to Co90Fe10, and coercive force was investigated. In this case, as an alloying element, also when Ta, Pd, Zr, Hf, Mo, Ti, Nb, Cu, Rh, Re, In, B, Ru, Ir, and W were used, the fall of coercive force was accepted. Moreover, even if it added the combination of those elements, for example, Ta and Pd. Nb. and Pd, Zr and Nb, the fall of coercive force has been checked. As an example, the relation between the addition of Ta and coercive force is shown in drawing 14 in the structure of the cascade screen of Ta content Co90Fe1010 nm/Cu5 nm/Ta content Co90Fe1010nm. It can check that coercive force has declined by addition of Ta element also in this case so that drawing 14 may

[0135] (Example 6) Although the above was the example which realized high (111) orientation about the CoFe film, it was not restricted to a CoFe film, but the same effect was seen even if it used the CoFeNi film, the CoNi film, etc. The example is shown in the following table 2. A table 2 shows rocking curve half-value-width \*\*theta50 of the peak in the spin bulb film (111) which has the same structure (the side which touches a FeMn film is still a CoFe film) as drawing 1 which produced the presentation of (1) ferromagnetic, the class of (2) substrates, and the substrate film between (3) substrates and a spin bulb film as a parameter, Hc of easy shaft orientations, and \*\*R/R. The result at the time of producing the spin bulb film of the ferromagnetic of the same presentation as a table 2 without a substrate film on a glass substrate is written together to a table 2 for a comparison.

[0136]

[A table 2]

組成	基板	下地	Δθ <sub>50</sub>	Нс	∆R/R
		:	()	(A/m)	<b>(%)</b>
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	ガラス	なし	20 <b>0</b> £	680	5. 5
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	サファイアC盾	なし	3. 8	440	5. 9
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	ガラス	TilOnm	6. 5	240	5. 0
Co20Ni80	ガラス	Ge15nm	4.1	190	5. 8
Co <sub>20</sub> Ni <sub>80</sub>	ガラス	Sil4nm	5. 8	210	5.8
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	なし	20以上	270	6. 1
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	サファイアC重	なし	4. 8	210	6. 9
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	Ti 7nm	6. 7	120	5. 8
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	Ge15nm	5. 3	70	6.8
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub>	ガラス	Si14nm	5. 5	90	6. 2
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	なし	20Q£	3500	8. 0
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	Ti 10nm	9. 1	400	6. 9
Со <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	Ge15nm	6. 0	210	8. 6
Со <sub>90</sub> Fе <sub>10</sub>	ガラス	Si14nm	5. 8	190	7.1

As shown in a table 2, by using the substrate film with which not only a CoFe film but a CoFeNi film and a CoNi film consist of a sapphire C side substrate top, Ti, Si, germanium, etc. compared with the direct membrane formation to a glass substrate, a \*\*theta50<7 degree good (111) orientation film can be obtained, as a result, Hc falls, and high resistance rate of change can be realized.

[0137] However, when 16 (M 1nm thickness / Cu 1nm thickness) artificial grids films of high (111) orientation were produced with the substrate film and sapphire C side substrate which consist of Ti etc. (M:Co20nickel80, Co20Fe15nickel65), \*\*R/R showed 2% or less of remarkable small value, and the high saturation magnetic field peculiar to RKKY-antiferromagnetism association disappeared. (111) Since RKKY-antiferromagnetism association will not be obtained if orientation is carried out, it turns out that resistance rate of change fell. Therefore, if the types (the so-called uncombined mold artificial grid film using the difference of coercive force (the collection of the 14th Magnetics Society of Japan academic lecture outlines, 1990, and 177 page) etc.) which do not use not only a spin bulb film but RKKY antiferromagnetism association realize high (111) orientation, high resistance rate of change and good soft magnetism tend to be compatible.

[0138] Moreover, even if it also transposed the ferromagnetic which touches FeMn in addition to this to the film of the same presentation as a bottom magnetic film, it was checked that the same effect is acquired.

[0139] (Example 7) The spin bulb film of Ti5 nm/FeMn8 nm/CoFe8 nm/Cu2.2nm / 8nm of ferromagnetics was formed on the same conditions as an example 1 on the glass substrate (with no substrate film). At this time, the nonmagnetic alloying element and the resistance rate of change of easy shaft orientations which are applied to a lower ferromagnetic, and the relation of Hc are shown in the following table 3.

[0140]

[A table 3]

3.1

組 成	<b>新於水作士(交見計士力)</b>	Hc (A/m)
	1	
	(%)	
Co89. 2Fe9. 8 A11. 0	8. 5	320
Co89 0Fe9 0 A12 0	7. 7	70
Co <sub>87.3</sub> Fe <sub>7.7</sub> Al <sub>5.0</sub>	5. 1	60
Co <sub>86. 2</sub> Fe <sub>7. 3</sub> A1 <sub>6. 5</sub>	2. 9	100
Co86Fe7 Re7	6. 7	180
Co <sub>87</sub> Fe <sub>6</sub> Zr <sub>7</sub>	6. 1	120
Co87Fe7 Ta6	<b>5.</b> 5	120
Co <sub>81</sub> Fe <sub>9</sub> Ta <sub>10</sub>	1. 5	9 5
Co <sub>83</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub> Hf <sub>7</sub>	6. 8	230
Co <sub>79</sub> Fe <sub>8</sub> Pd <sub>13</sub>	8. 8	2050
Co <sub>85</sub> Fe <sub>7</sub> Pd <sub>8</sub>	8. 0	1700
Co <sub>78</sub> Fe <sub>7</sub> Cu <sub>15</sub>	7. 9	380
Co <sub>75</sub> Fe <sub>7</sub> Pd <sub>9</sub> Cu <sub>9</sub>	7. 7	440
Co <sub>17</sub> Fe <sub>13</sub> Ni <sub>57</sub> Pd <sub>13</sub>	5. 5	180
Co <sub>19</sub> Fe <sub>14</sub> Ni <sub>60</sub> Pd <sub>7</sub>	5. 9	180
Co <sub>16</sub> Fe <sub>12</sub> Ni <sub>55</sub> Pd <sub>9</sub> Cu <sub>8</sub>	5. 3	8 0
Co <sub>17</sub> Fe <sub>13</sub> Ni <sub>59</sub> Hf <sub>11</sub>	5. 0	120
Co <sub>19</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>60</sub> Hf <sub>6</sub>	5. 7	120
Co <sub>81</sub> Fe <sub>9</sub> Au <sub>10</sub>	7. 5	410
Co <sub>83</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub> Ag <sub>7</sub>	7. 6	350
Co <sub>55</sub> Fe <sub>5</sub> Pd <sub>40</sub>	7. 3	800
Co <sub>55</sub> Fe <sub>5</sub> Cu <sub>40</sub>	7. 0	280

As shown in a table 3, Hc fell compared with the film which does not add the nonmagnetic element which formed membranes to the glass substrate. In addition of aluminum, Ta, etc., although the fall of Hc was remarkable, when it added in large quantities, resistance rate of change fell sharply. With aluminum, it turns out by Ta that it is compatible in low [5% or more which exceeds the spin bulb film which consists of NiFe under by 10 atom % of / resistance rate of change and low / Hc] under 6.5 atom %. In addition, when aluminum or Ta was added to CoFe, the maximum \*\*\*\* peak intensity increased in the X diffraction. On the other hand, although Cu, Au, Ag, Pd, etc. do not have the Hc reduction effect as remarkable as aluminum or Ta, decline in resistance rate of change is not seen by a lot of addition below 10 atom %, either. The maximum \*\*\*\*\* peak intensity in an X diffraction also increased the addition of Cu, Au, Ag, Pd, etc. to CoFe. It is thought that improvement in the crystal stacking tendency mentioned above originates in the fall of these Hc from the maximum \*\*\*\* peak intensity in an X diffraction having improved with the alloying element. In addition, reduction of the crystal magnetic anisotropy by the alloying element may also originate in the fall of Hc.

[0141] furthermore, the constant temperature of 65-degree-C95%RH — discoloration by the film which added Pd more than 7 atom %, although there was nothing when it is left in a constant humidity chamber for 100 hours and corrosion resistance is investigated about each ferromagnetic (100nm thickness) of a monolayer As for the CoFe film which does not add a nonmagnetic element, Co20nickel80 film, Co20Fe15nickel65 film and the film which did 6.5 atom % addition of aluminum, the film that did 6 atom % addition of Ta, discoloration was seen. That is, addition of Pd demonstrates the effect of improving corrosion resistance. In addition of only Pd,

although the fall of Hc is not so remarkable, if Pd is added with Cu, high resistance rate of change and corrosion resistance will be maintained, and the further improvement of soft magnetic characteristics will be attained. Furthermore, when the sapphire C side substrate, the amorphous metal-substrate film, and the substrate film of an fcc lattice were used, Hc fell to less than 80 A/m, and addition of only Pd also showed -10% high resistance rate of change by Pd density range to 40at(s)% of Pd further. However, when Pt expected to be effective for a corrosion-resistant improvement with the same noble metals was added, it increased more than the film with which Hc does not add Pt. For this reason, addition of the viewpoint of soft magnetic characteristics to Pt is not desirable.

[0142] (Example 8) After surface roughness defecated the thermal oxidation Si substrate surface not more than Ra =2nm by SH (mixed liquor of sulfuric-acid and hydrogen peroxide) processing, this substrate was laid in vacuum devices and it exhausted to 1x10 to 9 or less Torrs. The water and oxygen in vacuum devices were managed with the mass spectrograph and the dew-point instrument. After the above procedure is completed, super-high grade Ar gas is introduced in equipment, and the degree of vacuum in equipment is set to 1x10-4Torr, and it sets inside the ECR ion source, and is 2.45GHz. The ion beam which was made to generate microwave discharge and was accelerated performed sputtering, and as shown in drawing 15, the amorphous Si film was formed by 5nm of thickness as 1st substrate film 151 on the thermal oxidation Si substrate 150. Then, the Cu-nickel alloy was continuously formed by 2nm of thickness as 2nd substrate film 152 on the 1st substrate film 151, maintaining a vacuum.

[0143] A Co90Fe10 alloy film as the 1st ferromagnetic 153 on the surface by 8nm in thickness A Co90Fe10 alloy film as the 2nd ferromagnetic 155 by 2.2nm in thickness for a Cu-nickel alloy film as a nonmagnetic membrane 154 by 8nm in thickness The Fe-Mn alloy film was carried out by 8nm in thickness as an antiferromagnetism film 156, sequential membrane formation of the Ti film was carried out by 5nm in thickness as a protective coat 157, and the cascade screen of spin bulb structure was produced. Each above thin film was formed in ion beam sputtering. Furthermore, the spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element 159 was obtained by forming the Cu electrodes 158a and 158b on this cascade screen.

[0144] In addition, as a constituent of the CoFe system alloy film in a ferromagnetic 153,155, it was referred to as Co90Fe10 from a viewpoint of big resistance rate of change (the Magnetics Society of Japan: 16.313 (1992)) and soft magnetic characteristics.

[0145] Thus, when the crystallinity, the magnetic properties, and the resistance rate of change of the obtained spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element were measured, the coercive force which the half-value width by the X diffraction of a CoFe alloy film is 1 degree, and is one of the physical properties which show soft magnetic characteristics was 0.10e(s). Moreover, the magnetic-reluctance rate of change measured using this element showed the high value of about 10%.

[0146] Moreover, without having introduced usual Ar gas to 2x10-3Torr, and forming an amorphous Si film on the substrate surface, after laying the substrate which performed the same processing in vacuum devices for the comparison and exhausting to 1x10 to 7 or less Torrs, Cu film was directly formed as a substrate film, and the cascade screen of the spin bulb structure of the same configuration as an example 8 was produced on the surface. Furthermore, Cu electrode was formed on this cascade screen, and it considered as the magneto-resistive effect element. This cascade screen is usual 13.56MHz. It formed by the excited 2 pole sputtering method.
[0147] When the crystallinity, the magnetic properties, and the resistance rate of change of this magneto-resistive effect element were measured, the coercive force which the half-value width by the X diffraction of a CoFe alloy film is 7 degrees, and is one of the physical properties which show soft magnetic characteristics was 1.50e(s). Moreover, the magnetic-reluctance rate of change measured using this element was about 5%.

[0148] (Example 9) After surface roughness surface-cleaning-ized the sapphire substrate not more than Ra =2nm, this substrate was laid in vacuum devices and it exhausted to 1x10 to 9 or less Torrs. The water and oxygen in vacuum devices were managed with the mass spectrograph and the dew-point instrument. After the above procedure was completed, the amorphous CuTi film was formed by 3nm of thickness as 1st substrate film with the ultra-high-vacuum vacuum

deposition using the source of electron beam evaporation. Then, it continues with a vacuum maintained and is the excitation frequency of 100MHz. The FeMn alloy film was formed by 2nm of thickness as 2nd substrate film using ultra-high-vacuum RF sputtering.

[0149] Next, it is the excitation frequency of 100MHz about all the cascade screens of spin bulb structure that have the configuration of Ti5 nm/FeMn8nm/(Co81Fe9) Pd108 nm/Cu2.2nm/ (Co81</SUB>Fe9) Pd108nm on the above-mentioned substrate film. It formed using ultra-high-vacuum RF sputtering, Cu electrode was further formed on this cascade screen, and the spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was produced.

[0150] Thus, when the crystallinity, the magnetic properties, and the resistance rate of change of the obtained spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element were measured like the example 8, the coercive force which the half-value width by the X diffraction of a CoFe film is 1.5 degrees, and is one of the physical properties which show soft magnetic characteristics was 10e. Moreover, the magnetic-reluctance rate of change measured using the allotropy child showed the high value of about 12%.

[0151] (Example 10) As shown in <u>drawing 16</u>, the high resistance amorphous layer 31 which consists of CoZrNb etc. was formed on the support substrate 30, sequential formation of the exchange bias layer 34 which consists of the nonmagnetic membrane 33 which consists of a ferromagnetic 32 which consists of a CoFe alloy etc. on it, Cu, etc., a ferromagnetic 32, FeMn, etc. was carried out in the static magnetic field of about 4 kA/m, the lead 35 was formed on the exchange bias layer 34, and the magneto-resistive effect element was produced. In addition, each class formed membranes on the membrane formation conditions shown in the following table 4 with a sputtering system. [ of 4 yuan ]

[A table 4]

## 成隨冬件

	アモルファス層	翻鎖	帕爾	交換イプス層
ターゲット	CoZrNb	CoFe	Cu	Felin
雞辣辣	8×10 <sup>-5</sup> Pa			
スメヤッ妊	0. 4 Pa			
拟勧	400W	300V	80¥	300W
膜厚	10nm	8nm	3nm	140nm

FeMn側のCoFeの膜厚は4.5mmとした。

The magnetic properties of this magneto-resistive effect element are investigated, and that M-H curve (magnetization-magnetic field curve) is shown in <u>drawing 17</u> and <u>drawing 18</u>. In addition, <u>drawing 17</u> shows the M-H curve of easy shaft orientations, and <u>drawing 18</u> shows the M-H curve of difficult shaft orientations.

[0153] The coercive force Hc (inside a of drawing) of the CoFe film of the side which has not fixed to FeMn became about 500 A/m, and showed the remarkable low value compared with Hcabout 1600 A/m of the usual CoFe monolayer so that <u>drawing 17</u> might show. Also about the difficult shaft orientations which are furthermore signal magnetic field input sides, the coercive force Hc (inside b of drawing) of the CoFe film of the side which has not fixed to FeMn became about 600 A/m, and the remarkable low value was shown compared with Hcabout 1600 A/m of the usual CoFe monolayer so that drawing 18 might show.

[0154] Moreover, the resistance law of this magneto-resistive effect element is investigated, and that R-H curve (resistance-magnetic field curve) is shown in <u>drawing 19</u>. Resistance rate-of-change \*\*R/R became about 9% comparable as the conventional Co system spin bulb film of high resistance rate of change so that <u>drawing 19</u> might show. Moreover, the coercive force Hc (inside c of drawing) of the CoFe film of the side which has not fixed to FeMn became the low value of about 500 A/m so that it might be expected from drawing 17.

[0155] In this example, although the FeMn film was used as an exchange bias layer, even if it used the artificial grid film which may use antiferromagnetism films, such as NiO, and (Co/Cu)

has structures, such as n, it was checked that a good property is acquired. Furthermore, in this example, although the CoZrNb film is used as a high resistance amorphous layer, a FeZr film, a FeZrN film, a CoZrN film, a FeTaC film, or a NiFeX film (X:Rh, Nb, Zr, Hf, Ta, Re, Ir, Pd, Pt, Cu, Mo, Mn, W, Ti, Cr, Au or Ag) of a minute crystal etc. may be used. Especially, by the microcrystal film (Co system nitride, Co system carbonization film, NiFeX film) of a fcc phase, the effect which promotes fcc phase (111) orientation was also multiplied, Hc fell to -250 A/m by easy shaft orientations further, and resistance rate of change improved to 10%.

[0156] For a comparison, the magnetic properties of the magneto-resistive effect element which comes to carry out the laminating of the same ferromagnetic as drawing 23 later mentioned on a support substrate without preparing a high resistance amorphous layer, the middle class, a ferromagnetic, and the exchange bias layer one by one are investigated, and the M-H curve is shown in drawing 20 and drawing 21. In addition, drawing 20 shows the M-H curve of easy shaft orientations, and drawing 21 shows the M-H curve of difficult shaft orientations. Moreover, membrane formation conditions presupposed that it is the same as that of said table 3. [0157] The coercive force Hc (inside d of drawing) of the CoFe film of the side which has not fixed to FeMn became about 2000 A/m, and showed the high value like Hc of the usual CoFe monolayer so that drawing 20 might show. Furthermore, also about difficult shaft orientations, as shown in drawing 21, the coercive force Hc (inside e of drawing) of the CoFe film of the side which has not fixed to FeMn became about 1400 A/m, showed the high value like Hc of the usual CoFe monolayer, and was inadequate as a magneto-resistive effect element.

[0158] (Example 11) As shown in <u>drawing 22</u>, the substrate film 36 with a thickness of about 5nm it is thin from Cu etc. was formed on the support substrate 30, sequential formation of the exchange bias layer 34, a ferromagnetic 32, a nonmagnetic membrane 33, a ferromagnetic 32, and the high resistance amorphous layer 31 was further carried out on it, the lead 35 was formed on the high resistance amorphous layer 31, and the magneto-resistive effect element was produced. In addition, membrane formation conditions were made to be the same as that of the above-mentioned table 3.

[0159] Low Hc was able to be obtained when the structure shown in <u>drawing 22</u>, i.e., a high resistance amorphous layer, was formed as the upper layer rather than an exchange bias layer. Moreover, since an amorphous layer was high resistance, even if this layer turned into the maximum upper layer, there was no decline in the magnetic-reluctance rate of change by the shunt effect. In addition, it is desirable to prepare a substrate film for crystal orientation control of FeMn in this case.

[0160] (Example 12) After forming the CoPtCr film 42 by 8nm in thickness on the support substrate 41 and applying a resist 43 on it, patterning of the resist 43 was carried out to the desired pattern, and as shown in <u>drawing 23</u> (A), it etched by ion mealing etc. Under the present circumstances, the taper angle X of CoPtCr has a desirable direction near 90 degrees.
[0161] Next, as shown in <u>drawing 25</u> (B), the resist 43 after etching did not remove, but carried out sequential formation of the nonmagnetic membrane 45 which consists of a ferromagnetic 44 which consists of a CoFe alloy in this condition, Cu, etc., a ferromagnetic 44, and the high resistance amorphous layer 46, and produced the magneto-resistive effect element of spin bulb structure. Under the present circumstances, the taper angle Y of a resist 43 has a desirable direction near 90 degrees.

[0162] Next, after removing a resist 43, the lead 47 was formed on the high resistance amorphous layer 46. In addition, this lead 47 may be formed before removing a resist 43. Thus, by producing, as shown in <u>drawing 25</u> (C), without being accompanied by property deterioration, spin bulb structure sensitive to an interface condition is produced, and the thing of it can be carried out.

[0163] A high coercive force film can be used without using the exchange bias layer which consists of FeMn etc. as a magnetization fixing film like the above-mentioned structure. As a material of a high coercive force film, even if it does not use a substrate film, it is desirable to use the material which can demonstrate the suitable magnetic anisotropy within a field. So, in this example, the CoPtCr film with which are satisfied of this property was used as a high coercive force film.

[0164] (Example 13) As shown in <u>drawing 24</u>, the laminating of the high resistance amorphous layer 31, a ferromagnetic 32, a nonmagnetic membrane 33, a ferromagnetic 32, and the high resistance amorphous layer 31 was carried out one by one on the support substrate 30, the lead 35 was formed on the high resistance amorphous layer 31 of the maximum upper layer, and the magneto-resistive effect element was produced.

[0165] The antiferromagnetism-magnetization array between ferromagnetics 32 may realize using the auto-bias effect by the effect of an anti-magnetic field by the magnetic field or the configuration generated according to sense current not using the exchange bias layer which consists of FeMn which is a magnetization fixing film like the structure shown in drawing 24. [0166] In this case, it is made to be added so that the magnetic field generated according to sense current may serve as an opposite direction by the upper and lower sides on both sides of a ferromagnetic 32 in the direction of film width (the direction of g in drawing), and further, in order to reduce the anti-magnetic field of the direction of film width, two ferromagnetics 32 are mutually combined in antiferromagnetism. Consequently, even if there is no exchange bias layer, two ferromagnetic 32 comrades can join together in antiferromagnetism. Therefore, if the signal magnetic field Hs is added to a film longitudinal direction (the direction of f in drawing), magnetization of two ferromagnetics 32 will rotate and will serve as set ferromagnetism-association at a film longitudinal direction. Consequently, big \*\*R/R resulting from spin dependence dispersion can be obtained.

[0167] (Example 14) As shown in <u>drawing 25</u>, the CoCr alloy film was formed by 1nm of thickness by the ion beam spatter method as a high resistance ferromagnetic 161 on the thermal oxidation Si substrate 160. Next, on the high resistance magnetic film 161, it was 3nm in thickness about the CoFe alloy film as the 1st ferromagnetic 162, and Cu film was carried out by 2nm in thickness as a nonmagnetic membrane 163, sequential membrane formation of the CoFe alloy film was carried out by 3nm in thickness as the 2nd ferromagnetic 164, and the cascade screen of a spin bulb mold was formed.

[0168] Then, the FeMn film was formed by 15nm in thickness as an antiferromagnetism film 165 on the above-mentioned cascade screen. The spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element 168 was produced by forming a protective coat 166 moreover if needed, and forming Electrodes 167a and 167b (gap: 10 micrometers) further.

[0169] Thus, when the resistance rate of change of the obtained spin bulb mold magnetoresistive effect element was measured, the room temperature showed the high value of 14%. [0170] As a comparison, the spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was produced like the example 14 except not forming the high resistance ferromagnetic 161. When the property of this spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was evaluated like the example 14, the resistance rate of change in a room temperature was 12%.

[0171] (Example 16) a silicon-on-sapphire top — as the 1st ferromagnetic, it formed in Cu film as a Co90Fe10 alloy film and a nonmagnetic membrane, and the FeMn film was formed in order as a Co90Fe10 alloy film and an antiferromagnetism film as the 2nd ferromagnetic. Under the present circumstances, the thickness (dFeCo) of the 1st and 2nd ferromagnetics was changed, and resistance rate of change (delta rho/rho 0) was measured. The result is shown in <u>drawing 26</u>. In addition, it presupposed that the thickness of the 1st and 2nd ferromagnetics is the same, and the thickness of Cu film set thickness of 2.2nm and a FeMn film to 15nm. Moreover, in the above-mentioned magneto-resistive effect element, an electrode is formed through protective coats, such as Ta, nickel, NiCr, etc. excellent in corrosion resistance etc., if needed on an antiferromagnetism film. As <u>drawing 26</u> shows, it turns out that the MR effect is increasing [dFeCo] by 5nm or less. Moreover, a peak is taken near dFeCo=3nm and 2-4nm becomes a desirable range.

[0172] If the thickness of the sandwich structure of a ferromagnetic / nonmagnetic membrane (metal thin film) / ferromagnetic becomes thin, electronic dispersion in the field which is not in contact with a metal thin film will become large, and the size effect of resistance will appear. A changed part (deltarho) of the specific resistance of sandwich structure is t and a mean free path about the total thickness of sandwich structure IO If it carries out, deltarho is proportional to IO / t. Although it changes under terms and conditions, when Co system ferromagnetic is used

so that clearly also from <u>drawing 26</u>, ferromagnetic thickness is desirable when the MR effect with good being referred to as 5nm or less obtains.

[0173] That is, when the material which had low resistance, for example, the specific resistance of 30 or less microomegacm, in the field of the direction which is not in contact with the metal thin film of a ferromagnetic has touched, an electron passes through the interface, and flows in a material with the specific resistance of 30 or less microomegacm, and effective surface dispersion stops being able to happen easily. For this reason, in order to cause effective surface dispersion and to use a size effect, it is effective to set to 5nm or less thickness of the material which considered as the material of 30 or more microomegacm, or has touched.

[0174] In order to use a size effect and to acquire the big MR effect, as for the thickness of Co system ferromagnetic, it is desirable to make it 5nm or less. At this time, it is desirable to use the small metal of specific resistance, such as Cu, Ag, and Au, as a middle metal thin film, and in order to use a size effect, as for the thickness of a middle metal thin film, it is desirable that it is thinner than 5nm. Moreover, since the effects of surface dispersion in both ferromagnetics differ when the thickness of both ferromagnetics differs greatly, magnetic-reluctance rate of change will become small. For this reason, as for the ratio of the thickness of both ferromagnetics, it is desirable that it is between 1:1-1:2.

[0175] (Example 16) As shown in <u>drawing 27</u>, the CuPd alloy film was formed by 2nm in thickness by RF spatter as a nonmagnetic membrane 161 on silicon on sapphire 160. Next, on the nonmagnetic membrane 161, it was 1nm in thickness about the CoFe alloy film as the 1st ferromagnetic 162, and Cu film was carried out by 2nm in thickness as a nonmagnetic membrane 163, sequential membrane formation of the CoFe alloy film was carried out by 3nm in thickness as the 2nd ferromagnetic 164, and the cascade screen of a spin bulb mold was formed.

[0176] Then, the FeMn film was formed by 15nm in thickness as an antiferromagnetism film 165 on the above-mentioned cascade screen. The spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element 171 was produced by forming a protective coat 166 moreover if needed, and forming Electrodes 167a and 167b further.

[0177] With the antiferromagnetism film 165, since the one direction anisotropy is given to the 2nd ferromagnetic 164, all over a low magnetic field, magnetization does not move by this magneto-resistive effect element, while it had been fixed to the one direction by it. On the other hand, the 1st ferromagnetic 162 turns magnetization in the direction of a magnetic field also all over a low magnetic field. Therefore, the angle which magnetization of two ferromagnetics accomplishes is freely controllable by changing external magnetization. In addition, when giving an one direction anisotropy effective in the 2nd ferromagnetic 164, as for the antiferromagnetism film 165, it is desirable to consider as the thickness of about 1–50nm.

[0178] Thus, when the resistance rate of change of the obtained spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element 171 was measured, in spite of having made thickness of the 1st ferromagnetic 162 thin with 1nm, the room temperature showed the high value of 8%. Moreover, the Barkhausen noise was removable when used for playback of the high density magnetic recording of the \*\* width of recording track which processed the above-mentioned spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element 171 into the detailed configuration with a width-of-face [ of 2 micrometers ] x length of 80 micrometers, and specified between Cu leads to 2 micrometers.

[0179] As a comparison, the spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was produced like the example 17 except not forming a nonmagnetic membrane 161. When the property of this spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was evaluated like the example 17, only the value with resistance rate of change as small at a room temperature as 3% was acquired.
[0180] Moreover, the spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was produced like the example 16 except setting thickness of the 1st ferromagnetic 162 to 6nm. When the property of this spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was evaluated like the example 16, resistance rate of change was able to be obtained 6% at the room temperature, but when high density record (\*\* width of recording track) was reproduced by the same playback detailed element as an example 16, the Barkhausen noise by the anti-magnetic field was observed.
[0181] (Example 17) the GaAs film which doped Te as a thin film 172 with a long mean free path

on the thermal oxidation Si substrate 160 so that carrier concentration might be set to 1020cm—3 as shown in drawing 28 — MBE — membranes were formed by 10nm in thickness by law. Next, on the Te dope GaAs film 172, it was 1nm in thickness about the CoFe alloy film as the 1st ferromagnetic 162, and Cu film was carried out by 2nm in thickness as a nonmagnetic membrane 163, sequential membrane formation of the CoFe alloy film was carried out by 4nm in thickness as the 2nd ferromagnetic 164, and the cascade screen of a spin bulb mold was formed.

[0182] Then, the FeMn film was formed by 15nm in thickness as an antiferromagnetism film 165 on the above—mentioned cascade screen. The spin bulb mold magneto—resistive effect element 173 was produced by forming a protective coat 166 moreover if needed, and forming Electrodes 167a and 167b further.

[0183] Thus, when the resistance rate of change of the obtained spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was measured, the room temperature showed the high value of 18%. Moreover, the above-mentioned spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element is used for playback of high density magnetic recording, and it is 105 A/cm2. When the output signal voltage in the sense current of the current density to say was measured, it is 1 mVp-p. The good value to say was acquired.

[0184] As a comparison, the spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was produced like the example 17 except not forming the Te dope GaAs film 172. When the property of this spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element was evaluated like the example 17, only the value with resistance rate of change as small at a room temperature as 2% was acquired.
[0185] (Example 18) Cu film with a thickness of 10nm was formed as a substrate film on the glass substrate, and Co90Fe10 film was formed on it. Cu film and Co90Fe10 film formed membranes by the RF2 pole sputtering method. In addition, sputtering added the one direction magnetic field of about 4000 A/m near the substrate with the permanent magnet during membrane formation, and performed it according to the sputtering conditions shown below.
[0186]

Preliminary exhaust air 1x10 – 4 or less Pa Ar sputtering gas \*\* 0.4Pa RF injection power CoFe: 300–500W Cu:160W Sputtering speed CoFe:0.5–1 nm/s Cu: The relation between Hc (difficult shaft orientations) of Co90Fe10 film and the thickness of Co90Fe10 film which carried out in this way and was produced 1 nm/s is shown in drawing 29. Moreover, what formed direct Co90Fe10 film in drawing 29 without preparing Cu substrate film on a glass substrate for a comparison was shown. In addition, coercive force Hc was measured with the oscillatory type magnetometer. [0187] Co90Fe10 usual film which does not prepare Cu substrate film showed high Hc of 2000 or more A/m at 20nm or less of thickness so that drawing 29 might show. On the other hand, although the falls of Hc were few by Co90Fe10 film of 20nm of thickness when Cu substrate film was prepared, in 10nm or less of thickness, Hc fell to 400 – 900 A/m sharply. Thus, by preparing Cu substrate film between a glass substrate and Co90Fe10 film showed that Hc of Co90Fe10 film could be reduced. When especially the thickness of Cu substrate film was one or more atomic layers, the effect of the above-mentioned Hc reduction was accepted. In addition, when Co film was completely similarly formed on Cu substrate film, the fall of Hc was not accepted like the case of a CoFe film.

[0188] (Example 19) Cu substrate film with a thickness of 5-6nm was formed on the glass substrate, and sequential formation of Co90Fe10 film, Cu interlayer with a thickness of 2nm, and the Co90Fe10 film was further carried out on Cu substrate film. In addition, the membrane formation conditions of these films presupposed that it is the same as that of an example 18. [0189] <a href="Drawing 30">Drawing 30</a> is shown for the relation of the thickness of Hc (difficult shaft orientations) and Co90Fe10 film to this cascade screen (Cu/CoFe/Cu/CoFe). Moreover, what formed direct Co90Fe10 film in <a href="drawing 30">drawing 30</a> without preparing Cu substrate film on a glass substrate like <a href="drawing 29">drawing 29</a> was shown.

[0190] As drawing 30 shows, although the thickness of unit Co90Fe10 film increases Hc rapidly by 5nm or more at the cascade screen which does not prepare Cu substrate film, Hc is 800 A/m in 3nm or less of thickness. Thus, preparing Cu interlayer can also reduce Hc. Furthermore, by preparing Cu substrate film in this cascade screen shows that Hc can fall further and Hc with low 220 - 400 A/m is obtained for the thickness of unit Co90Fe10 film by 7nm or less.

Therefore, in Cu substrate film and Co90Fe10 cascade screen using Cu interlayer, Hc can be sharply reduced rather than the case of an example 18.

[0191] Moreover, the magnetization curve (easy shaft orientations) of the cascade screen of Cu5 nm/Co90Fe102.2 nm/Cu2 nm/Co90Fe102.2nm is shown in drawing 31. As drawing 31 shows, it turns out that residual magnetization is 90% or more, 0 is not antiferromagnetism—like [magnetization of these two Co90Fe10 ferromagnetics], and a magnetic field shows a ferromagnetism magnetization action for it.

[0192] (Example 20) It produced on the membrane formation conditions which show n (CoFe/Cu) film to an example 18, having set unit membrane thickness of Co90Fe10 film to 1.5nm, and having used unit membrane thickness of Cu film as 1.5nm, and the relation of the Hc and count n of a laminating was investigated. The result is shown in <u>drawing 32</u>. In this case, it investigated about what carried out the laminating to the order of Co90Fe10 film and Cu film on the glass substrate, and the thing (it is considered that Cu of the 1st layer is equivalent to a substrate film) which carried out the laminating to the order of Cu film and Co90Fe10 film.

[0193] When the counts of a laminating are 4–8, the point or Cu film of Hc is [ Co90Fe10 film ] as low [ when the count of a laminating is 2 and Co90Fe10 film is previously formed so that drawing 32 may show, Hc is high 650 A/m and a little, but / the point ] as 100 – 300 A/m. This is considered to be because for the effect of Cu substrate film to diminish and for Hc to become low irrespective of the existence of Cu substrate film (Cu film of the 1st layer) as the count of a laminating increases. In addition, the magnetization curve in this case was also the configuration which shows ferromagnetism—association like drawing 31.

[0194] In addition, it turned out [ which cross-section transmission electron microscope observation or measurement of the diffraction peak-mesial-magnitude width of face of an X diffraction curve to the diameter of crystal grain is large, namely, this cascade screen followed by the interface of Cu film and Co90Fe10 film ] that the crystal is growing in epitaxy. Therefore, since this cascade screen does not have excessive resistance increase unlike multilayers, such as conventional Fe/C which is making soft magnetism demonstrate according to the microcrystal effect using the crystal growth screening effect in the interface of a nonmagnetic membrane and a ferromagnetic, the application to the magneto-resistive effect film using spin dependence dispersion is possible for it.

[0195] (Example 21) Magnetization of the ferromagnetic which adjoins Cu film according to Cu thickness joining together in antiferromagnetism, or joining together in ferromagnetism is known for n film (Co90Fe10/Cu). The relation of the Hs (saturation magnetic field) of difficult shaft orientations and the thickness of an unit Cu film in 16 (Co90Fe10(1nm)/Cu) is shown in drawing 33. When the thickness of Cu film is set as 1nm and about 2nm, big Hs (12–240kA/(m)) resulting from antiferromagnetism association between adjoining ferromagnetics is shown. Moreover, the magnetization curve showing antiferromagnetism—association to which residual magnetization as shown in drawing 34 also by easy shaft orientations fell sharply is shown. On the other hand, the other thickness showed Hs (1000 – 2000 A/m) of the degree which is equivalent to the induced magnetic anisotropy of Co90Fe10 like the magnetization curve shown in drawing 31, and residual magnetization is 90% or more, and the magnetization curve of easy shaft orientations also showed the property without antiferromagnetism association by it.

[0196] Moreover, as <u>drawing 33</u> shows, by setting thickness as the mean value of about 1.5nm shows that ferromagnetic-like association is obtained. If it is ferromagnetic-like association, since Hs is low, the permeability of important difficult shaft orientations can be made high on magnetometric sensor application of the magnetic head etc. Thus, as for the thickness of Cu film, in this example, it is desirable that it is the mean value which does not carry out antiferromagnetism association unlike the artificial grid film in which the conventional giant magneto-resistance is shown.

[0197] (Example 22) The ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 was formed on the same membrane formation conditions as an example 18 on the substrate 50. Here, the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 says the cascade screen of Cu film which is a nonmagnetic membrane shown in the example 20 and the example 21, and Co90Fe10 film which is a ferromagnetic. Subsequently, the nonmagnetic membrane 52 which has different thickness from the nonmagnetic membrane in a

ferromagnetic laminating unit was formed on the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51, and the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 was further formed on it. Subsequently, the antiferromagnetism film 53 which consists of FeMn, NiO, NiCoO, etc. was formed on it, and the protective coat 54 was further formed on it. This protective coat 54 is formed if needed. Finally, in order to supply current to the edge section, the magneto-resistive effect element which forms an electrode terminal 55 on a protective coat 54, and is shown in <u>drawing 35</u> was produced. [0198] Here, exchange bias can be given per [51] ferromagnetic laminating which touches the antiferromagnetism film 53 directly by performing membrane formation of the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 and the antiferromagnetism film 53 in an one direction magnetic field. In addition, since magnetization of the ferromagnetic in the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 which carries out switched connection to the antiferromagnetism film 53 fixes, CoFe monolayer with soft magnetism low a little may be used instead of the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51.

Moreover, the CoFe/Cu interface which carried out ferro association does not necessarily need to be flat, and as shown in <u>drawing 36</u>, the same effect is demonstrated also where layer-like CoFe is intermingled in Cu film.

[0199] It is the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 4 (Co90Fe101 nm/Cu1.2nm) The magnetization curve and resistance law (the directions of a magnetic field are the easy shaft orientations) of a magneto-resistive effect element which considered as the film, used the nonmagnetic membrane 52 as Cu film with a thickness of 2.5nm, used the antiferromagnetism film 53 as the FeMn film with a thickness of 10nm, and used the protective coat 54 as Cu film with a thickness of 6nm are shown in drawing 37 and drawing 38, respectively. In addition, resistance was measured by 4 terminal method.

[0200] Magnetization has joined together in antiferromagnetism between two ferromagnetic laminating units 51 by H>800 A/m, and magnetization has joined together in ferromagnetism between two ferromagnetic laminating units 51 by H<500 A/m so that <u>drawing 37</u> and <u>drawing 38</u> may show. That is, it turns out that magnetization is changing from ferromagnetic—like association to antiferromagnetism—association between H= 500 – 800 A/m. Resistance is changing in few magnetic field fields of this H= 500 – 800 A/m, i.e., few hystereses, a lot, and resistance rate—of—change deltaR/R at this time is 8%.

[0201] The magnetization curve and resistance law of a magneto-resistive effect element (what transposed the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 to Co90Fe10 monolayer) of spin bulb structure which are shown in <u>drawing 35</u> which consists of Co90Fe10 monolayer for a comparison are shown in <u>drawing 39</u> and <u>drawing 40</u>, respectively.

[0202] Compared with resistance change of <u>drawing 38</u>, a hysteresis with it exists in a magnetization curve so that <u>drawing 39</u> and <u>drawing 40</u> may show. [ a large consequently hysteresis and ] [ to a resistance law ] [ big ] Moreover, deltaR/R is about 6.5% and is a value smaller than resistance change of drawing 37.

[0203] From the above explanation, since soft magnetism is good, a big resistance change can be obtained by few magnetic fields and a Co90Fe10/Cu interface exists in the interior of a ferromagnetic laminating unit further, the magneto-resistive effect element of spin bulb structure using the ferromagnetic cascade screen of this invention is understood that resistance rate of change is large.

[0204] Although the example of n cascade screen was described in detail (CoFe/Cu), this spin bulb structure can expect the same effect for the above also in the laminating of other ferromagnetics (for example, NiFe, NiFeCo, Co, etc.) and other nonmagnetic membranes (Cu radical alloy etc.). Next, in the spin bulb structure in drawing 35, the resistance rate of change and Hc of easy shaft orientations at the time of changing the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 into various ferromagnetic joint multilayers are shown in the following table 5.

[A table 5]

強磁性積層単位	Hc(A/m)	抵抗委任率(%)
Co <sub>20</sub> Fe <sub>15</sub> Ni <sub>65</sub> 1nn /Cu0.7nm 4	80	6.9
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub> 1nm Cu <sub>80</sub> Ni <sub>20</sub> 0.7nm 4	660	7.9
Co <sub>80</sub> Fe <sub>20</sub> 1nm#/Cu0.7nm#)	320	6. 3

It turns out that Hc can be reduced compared with the spin bulb film (table 2 reference) using a monolayer magnetic film even if it uses the ferromagnetic multilayers of combination other than CoFe/Cu, as shown in a table 5, and the resistance rate of change more than an EQC can be realized.

[0206] (Example 23) The magnetization curve and resistance law at the time of using Co90Fe10 monolayer with a thickness of 8nm per [ 51 ] ferromagnetic laminating by the side of the antiferromagnetism film 53 are shown in drawing 41 (A), drawing 41 (B), and drawing 42, respectively, using Co90Fe10 with a Cu substrate film of with a thickness of 4nm and a thickness of 5nm as a ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 by the side of the substrate in drawing 35.

[0207] By easy shaft orientations, Hc shows 800 or less A/m and a comparatively large value so that drawing 41 (A) may show, but difficult shaft orientations show the low value of 100 or less A/m so that drawing 41 (B) may show. Moreover, as drawing 42 shows, resistance rate-of-change deltaR/R is 2.8% in difficult shaft orientations 7.2% at easy shaft orientations. Thus, it is thought by difficult shaft orientations for ferro association between both ferromagnetism layers that that resistance rate of change is low has an inadequate anti-parallel magnetization array, and deltaR/R comparable as easy shaft orientations can be obtained by adding the bias magnetic field which promotes an anti-parallel magnetization array with a hard magnetic film etc. That is, even if it uses the cascade screen of Cu substrate film and Co90Fe10 film, both good soft magnetism and high deltaR/R are obtained.

[0208] (Example 24) The laminating of the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 used in the example 22 on the substrate 50 and the nonmagnetic membrane 52 which has different thickness from the non-magnetic layer in the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 was carried out twice [ at least ] or more by turns. Furthermore, the protective coat 54 was formed on the nonmagnetic membrane 52 of the maximum upper layer. This protective coat 54 is formed if needed. The magneto-resistive effect element which finally forms the electrode terminal 55 for supplying current to the edge section, and is shown in drawing 43 was produced. It is the ferromagnetic laminating unit 51 4 (Co90Fe101 nm/Cu0.6nm) Although it considered as the film, the nonmagnetic layer 52 was used as Cu film with a thickness of 2.2nm and the count n of a laminating was set to 8, the magnetization curve and resistance law of difficult shaft orientations are shown in drawing 44 and drawing 45.

[0209] The saturation magnetic field Hs shows 6000 A/m and a comparatively small value, and Hc shows 240 A/m and a small value so that <u>drawing 44</u> and <u>drawing 45</u> may show. At this time, resistance rate of change is 12% or less, and the hysteresis of the magnetic field with which resistance change is saturated corresponds with Hc of a magnetization curve mostly almost in accordance with the saturation magnetic field Hs in a magnetization curve. Thereby, it turns out by few magnetic fields that big resistance rate of change is shown.

[0210] (Example 25) 16 (Co90Fe101 nm/Cu1.1nm) cascade screens 61 were formed on the field (110) of the MgO substrate 60 into which the mirror plane condition was processed. A metal mask is used for this cascade screen 61, and it is 2 1x8mm. Patterning was carried out to the shape of a stripe. Subsequently, the electrode terminal 62 for supplying current to the edge section was formed on the cascade screen 61, and the magneto-resistive effect element was produced. In addition, Cu film with a thickness of 5.5nm may be formed as a protective coat on a cascade screen 61. Moreover, the presentation of a CoFe system alloy film is what big resistance rate of change is shown for [the Magnetics Society of Japan and 16,313 (1992)]. And it was referred to as Co90Fe10 from the point of soft magnetic characteristics.

[0211] In this case, on the field (110) of the MgO substrate 60, it formed from Co90Fe10 film. It

is because 10% or more of big resistance change cannot be obtained if it forms from Cu film. In drawing 46, the wave line shown in the cascade screen 61 shows the cross section of the main growth side. MR sense current (Is) is passed in the direction in which this main growth side is swinging.

[0212] Here, the plural coincidence sputtering system was used as membrane formation equipment which forms a cascade screen 61. This sputtering system has composition Co90Fe10 target can carry out DC spatter of RF spatter and the Cu target, passes the substrate which impressed direct-current bias by turns on each target, and forms membranes. In addition, cryopump was used for the main exhaust air pump. After exhausting the inside of a vacuum chamber to 5x10 to 7 or less Torrs using this membrane formation equipment, Ar gas was introduced in the vacuum chamber and sputtering was performed as about 3 mTorr. [0213] The resistance rate of change and the crystal structure of a magneto-resistive effect element which were acquired were investigated. In addition, resistance rate of change measured resistance change of the direction of a static magnetic field with the four probe method. The current density at this time is 2.0 - 2.5 kA/cm2. It carried out. Moreover, the crystal structure was evaluated by measuring the rocking curve about a theta-2theta scan and the main diffraction side with an X-ray diffraction method by the following Measuring conditions. [0214] X diffraction Measuring condition (1) theta-2theta scan Cu-Kalpha, 40kV, 200mA scan width-of-face:2theta=2 - 100-degree step size:0.03-degree coefficient time amount: 0.5-second (2) rocking curve Cu−Kalpha, 40kV, 200mA scan width−of−face:2 theta= 20−60−degree step size:0.04-degree coefficient time amount : An X diffraction curve with the theta-2theta scan of the cascade screen of a magneto-resistive effect element is shown in drawing 47 (A) and <u>drawing 47</u> (B) for 0.5 seconds. As shown in drawing 47 (B), the strong diffraction peak equivalent to fcc phase (220) side reflection can be checked near 2 theta= 75 degree. Thereby, an X diffraction curve shows that the main growth side of a cascade screen is a fcc phase (220) side which has distortion in an one direction. In addition, the peak near [ in drawing 47 (A) ] 2 theta= 4 degree is diffraction by the laminating period (- 2.1nm).

[0215] Next, the rocking curve was measured from [100] shaft orientations and [110] shaft orientations about this main growth side. The result is shown in drawing 48 (A) and drawing 48 (B). The rocking curve measured from [110] shaft orientations is shown in drawing 48 (A). One peak can be checked at about theta= 38 degrees from this. On the other hand, the rocking curve from [100] shaft orientations is shown in drawing 48 (B). Existence of two peaks, theta= 33 degrees and near 41 degree, can be checked from this.

[0216] The conceptual diagram of the membrane structure judged by drawing 49 (A) and drawing 49 (B) from the rocking curve of drawing 48 is shown. The layer which surged in drawing 49 (A) shows the fcc phase (110) side of the main growth side. Although the average crystal growth side measured with a theta-2theta scan X-ray diffraction method is (110), this (110) field is swinging to [100] shaft orientations. On the other hand, the fluctuation of [110] shaft orientations is very small. This corresponds to two peaks ([100] shaft-orientations measurement) of the rocking curve shown in drawing 48 (B), and one peak ([110] shaft-orientations measurement) shown in drawing 48 (A).

[0217] The component distribution in a film surface of the normal of this growth side was shown in <u>drawing 49</u> (B). By big fluctuation of [100] shaft orientations, the anisotropy in this film surface is large to [100] shaft orientations, and serves as small field internal division cloth at [110] shaft orientations. When it passes to [100] shaft orientations to being about 30%, the resistance rate of change (\*\*R/R) at the time of passing MR sense current to [110] shaft orientations shows about 35%, so that it may mention later.

[0218] Next, the magnetic properties of this cascade screen were measured. The magnetization curve based on the result is shown in <u>drawing 50</u> (A) and <u>drawing 50</u> (B). <u>Drawing 50</u> (A) shows the magnetization curve at the time of impressing an external magnetic field H in parallel with [100] shafts, and <u>drawing 50</u> (B) shows the magnetization curve at the time of impressing an external magnetic field H in parallel with [110] shafts. In addition, the magnetic properties of a magneto-resistive effect element were measured by maximum impression magnetic field 1.2 MA/m with the oscillatory type magnetometer (VSM). Moreover, the amount M of magnetization

of a magnetization curve standardized and showed saturation magnetization Ms.

[0219] As drawing 50 (A) and drawing 50 (B) show, [100] shafts are easy axes and [110] shafts are hard axes. At this time, the saturation magnetic fields of an easy axis are about 240 kA/m, and the saturation magnetic fields of a hard axis are about 960 kA/m.

[0220] Thus, in this example, the cascade screen which carried out the laminating of a ferromagnetic and the nonmagnetic membrane by a unit of at least 1 time one by one on the substrate is provided, and the magneto-resistive effect element characterized by being set up in the direction which the direction of sense current meets in the direction of fluctuation of the crystal orientation side of said cascade screen is offered.

[0221] In this example, the normal of the main crystal orientation side of a cascade screen has a component within a film surface by fluctuation of a crystal orientation side, and the component in the film surface has an anisotropy. Or the normal of the plane defect generated in a crystalline cascade screen has the fluctuation into a film surface, and this fluctuation has an anisotropy within a film surface. The direction where the anisotropy is strong is a direction where a ferromagnetic atom and a nonmagnetic atom tend to be intermingled in the atomic plane which carries out film growth.

[0222] The probability an electron carries out [ probability ] spin dependence dispersion becomes high by passing sense current in the direction in which the anisotropy by the direction, i.e., the component in a film surface, becomes the largest. Consequently, a magneto-resistive effect element shows higher resistance rate of change.

[0223] (Example 26) The bias impressed to a substrate was changed and the various magnetoresistive effect elements which have the same laminating membrane structure as an example 25 were produced. The bias voltage dependency of resistance rate of change is shown in <u>drawing 51</u>. In addition, current was passed and measured in parallel with the [100] shafts and [110] shafts which intersect perpendicularly in the field (110) of a MgO substrate, respectively. [100] shafts show, and each shaft has the weak bias dependency of resistance rate of change, and it shows about 30% of value with [110] shafts about 35% so that <u>drawing 51</u> may show. That is, it turns out that the [100] shafts have resistance rate of change larger than [110] shafts. [0224] (Example 27) The magneto-resistive effect element was produced like the example 25 except using a cascade screen as 16 (Cu2 nm/Co90Fe101nm) films.

[0225] Thus, when the thickness of Cu film was made to increase to 2nm, the resistance rate of change when passing current to [100] shaft orientations was about 25%, and was about 19% in [110] shaft orientations. Therefore, even if it makes the thickness of Cu film increase, it turns out that the direction dependency of this resistance rate of change is maintained. As were shown in the rocking curve of the main growth side (fcc phase (220) side) also in this case at drawing 48 (B) and [100] shafts showed to two peaks and drawing 48 (A), one peak was checked with [110] shafts.

[0226] In addition, even if it changes the thickness of Cu film, and the thickness of Co90Fe10 film from 0.3nm to 10nm with the same configuration, respectively, the orientation of a rocking curve is not different from the above, and fluctuation is [ orientation ] larger [ the [100] shafts ]. Moreover, the way of [100] shafts showed large orientation also for resistance rate of change. [0227] Moreover, even if it changed the count of a laminating from 2 to 70 with the same configuration, the orientation of a rocking curve and resistance rate of change did not change, but bigger [ resistance / pass / to [100] shaft orientations / sense current ] change was obtained.

[0228] (Example 28) The magneto-resistive effect element was produced like the example 26 except using a cascade screen as 16 (Ru1 nm/Co90Fe101nm) films.

[0229] \*\*R/R of this magneto-resistive effect element was larger than the case where the direction in the case of passing sense current to [100] shaft orientations passes sense current to [110] shaft orientations. Moreover, the aforementioned orientation was accepted even if it changed the thickness of Ru film.

[0230] This phenomenon has been checked even when Co film was used instead of Co90Fe10 film. Moreover, even if it used Ag, Au, Pd, Pt, and Ir for the material of a cascade screen in addition to Ru, the difference of \*\*R/R by the shaft orientations on the field (110) of a MgO

substrate has been checked.

[0231] (Example 29) The magneto-resistive effect element was produced like the example 25 except using a cascade screen as 16 (Cu1.1 nm/nickel80Fe201.5nm) films.

[0232] When sense current was passed to the [100] shaft orientations of the cascade screen of this magneto-resistive effect element, that resistance rate of change was 21%. On the other hand, the resistance rate of change at the time of passing sense current to [110] shaft orientations was 17%. Moreover, also in this cascade screen, [ field / of a Co90Fe10/Cu cascade screen ], a crystal growth side is a fcc phase (110) side, and rocking curve measurement showed at him that the growth side was swinging at [100] shaft orientations. In addition, the same orientation was shown even if it changed the thickness of nickel80Fe20 film, and the thickness of Cu film with 0.5nm – 50nm.

[0233] Moreover, even if it used Co, a CoFe alloy, a NiFe alloy, Fe, a FeCr alloy, etc. as a material of a ferromagnetic and used Cu, Au, Ag, Cr, Ru, a CiNi alloy, etc. as a material of a nonmagnetic membrane, when the crystal orientation and the direction of sense current where the main growth side of a cascade screen is swinging were parallel, it turned out that big resistance rate of change is shown.

[0234] (Example 30) Co film with a thickness of 1.5nm, germanium film with a thickness of 50nm, and Au film with a thickness of 1.5nm were formed on the field (110) of a GaAs substrate. Furthermore, 20 cascade screens which use the MBE method on it and are shown in drawing 53 (Cu0.9 nm/Co90Fe101nm) were formed. 69 in drawing shows Cu film and 71 shows Co90Fe10 film. Furthermore, germanium film with a thickness of 5nm was formed as a protective coat on the cascade screen, and the magneto-resistive effect element was produced. This cascade screen showed fcc phase (111) side growth. At this time, resistance rate of change showed about 15% regardless of the direction of sense current.

[0235] Next, it carried out to 0.8nm in thickness of Au substrate film, and the magneto-resistive effect element was produced for the other structure like the above.

[0236] When two obtained magneto-resistive effect elements were observed with the transmission electron microscope, that whose thickness of Au substrate film is 1.5nm was what there is almost no lattice defect and has very good crystallinity. On the other hand, although that whose thickness of Au substrate film is 0.8nm showed {111} plane orientation, the stacking fault was observed when {100} sides slid on <110> shaft orientations. Moreover, when the resistance rate of change of the <211> shafts in this magneto-resistive effect element and <110> shaft orientations was measured, in <110> shaft orientations, it is about 15%, and was increasing with 17% in the <211> directions. Consequently, when a defect with directivity enters shows that the direction dependency of the sense current of resistance rate of change occurs.

[0237] Atomic arrangement drawing of the cascade screen in <u>drawing 52</u> is shown in <u>drawing 53</u>. The number of the interfaces which encounter per unit length differs by the case where current flows in the <211> directions, and the case where it flows in the <110> directions, and when (100) atomic planes shift in the <110> directions shows many [ in the <211> directions ]. It turned out that the crystal orientation dependency of the number of spin dependence interface dispersion sites of conduction electron by the lattice defect with such directivity to produce was generated by the twin crystal defect besides the stacking fault mentioned above. Below, the example is explained.

[0238] Au substrate film with a thickness of 3nm was formed on the field (100) of a GaAs substrate, and 16 (Co90Fe101 nm/Cu1.1nm) cascade screens were further formed on it. This cascade screen showed fcc phase (100) plane orientation. At this time, twin crystal was generated by making <111> shafts into a medial axis. The atomic arrangement at the time of observing a cascade screen cross section from <110> is shown in drawing 55. As drawing 54 shows, when twin crystal is generated in the circumference of <111> shafts shows that an interface with Cu, Co, or Fe atom appears in the <110> directions.

[0239] The sense current direction dependency of the resistance rate of change of this cascade screen was measured in <110> shafts and <100> shaft orientations. Correlation with the twin plane of a cascade screen and the direction of current which carried out {100} side growth, and resistance rate of change is shown in drawing 55. Resistance rate of change shows 18%, when

sense current is passed to <110> shaft orientations, and when sense current is passed to <100> shaft orientations, it shows 16% of value, so that <u>drawing 55</u> may show. Thus, the resistance rate of change of the <110> shafts which cross at {111} sides and a big angle appeared highly. On the other hand, when twin crystal was not generated, the sense current direction dependency of resistance rate of change was not able to be checked.

[0240] (Example 31) 16 (Cu1.1 nm/Co81Fe9 Pd101nm) artificial grids films were formed on the glass substrate. Membrane formation of an artificial grid film was performed impressing direct-current bias to a substrate. The magnitude of the direct-current bias to impress is changed, resistance rate of change is measured, and the dependency (bias dependency) of the direct-current bias impressed to a substrate is shown in drawing 56.

[0241] Resistance rate of change increases and shows about 28% of maximal value by bias-50V as direct-current bias is made to increase so that <u>drawing 56</u> may show. Furthermore, when direct-current bias is enlarged, resistance rate of change decreases.

[0242] When the crystallinity of the various artificial grid films which direct-current bias was changed and were produced was evaluated, the main growth side of all artificial grid films was fcc phase (111) side growth. Here, each bias dependency is shown in <u>drawing 57</u> and <u>drawing 58</u> about the peak intensity of the main growth side reflected from the fcc phase (111) side which appears in the long period structure reflectivity and near 2 theta= 44 degree. [ which appear near 2 theta= 4 degree reflected from the laminating period (2.1nm)]

[0243] Although some maximum is shown in about bias-20V about the bias dependency of long period structure reflectivity so that <u>drawing 57</u> may show, especially bias and strong correlation cannot be referred to as being. Moreover, although some maximum is shown in the bias-10V neighborhood also about the bias dependency of fcc phase (111) side reflectivity so that <u>drawing 58</u> may show, bias and strong correlation cannot be referred to as being.

[0244] The structure of an interface becomes moreover, less sensitive [ compared with the case where bulk dispersion of spin dependence dispersion becomes large, and Co system film is used as a ferromagnetic ] by using the CoFe alloy system as a ferromagnetic. In addition, when using Co system film as a ferromagnetic, depending for resistance rate of change on membrane structure greatly is reported.

[0245] Next, the bias dependency of coercive force (Hc) is shown in drawing 59. Although about bias-50V shows the good soft magnetic characteristics of 200 or less A/m, coercive force begins to increase from about -60V to it, so that drawing 59 may show. Therefore, the optimum conditions of resistance rate of change and coercive force can be chosen by choosing the magnitude of the direct-current bias to impress. In addition, even when Si substrate, a ceramic substrate, a GaAs substrate, and germanium substrate were used instead of a glass substrate, the optimum point of resistance rate of change and coercive force was able to be selected similarly.

[0246] (Example 32) Here, the example of this invention which detects a signal magnetic field by magnetization rotation of two ferromagnetic both who have the spin dependence scattering power force is explained.

[0247] As shown in drawing 60, sequential formation of the substrate film 81 for orientation control of an antiferromagnetism film, the antiferromagnetism film 82, the ferromagnetic 83 that has the spin dependence scattering power force, a nonmagnetic membrane 84, a ferromagnetic 85, and the antiferromagnetism film 82 was carried out on the substrate 80. Furthermore, the electrode terminal 86 was formed on the antiferromagnetism film 82 of the maximum upper layer. A protective coat may be formed if needed on this antiferromagnetism film 82. In addition, the material of the substrate film 81 has the desirable metal which has magnetic fcc phases, such as Cu alloys, such as Cu, CuV, and CuCr, a nonmagnetic fcc phase or NiFe(s), such as Pd, and CoFeTa, when the antiferromagnetism film 82 consists of FeMn. Even if thickness is [ the magnetic material ] thinner at this time (that is, there is little shunt splitting), good exchange bias can be given. The antiferromagnetism film 82 consists of FeMn, NiO, PtMn, etc., and the thickness is 5–50nm. Ferromagnetics 83 and 85 consist of NiFe, Co, CoFe, NiFeCo, etc., and the thickness is 0.5–20nm. A nonmagnetic membrane 84 consists of Cu, Au, Ag, etc., and the thickness is 0.5–10nm. Moreover, it is not necessary to form the antiferromagnetism film 82 all

over a ferromagnetic 85, and it may be formed only in the edge section (about 86 electrode terminal) of both the sides of a ferromagnetic 83.

[0248] Here, at least during membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 83, the static magnetic field of an one direction is added in the x directions (the direction of sense current) of [ in drawing 60 ]. Consequently, a switched connection bias magnetic field joins a ferromagnetic 83 in the direction of a static magnetic field. On the other hand, a static magnetic field is added in the direction (minus x direction) different 180 degrees from the direction of a magnetic field added during membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 83 during membrane formation of the antiferromagnetism film 82 at least. Consequently, a switched connection bias magnetic field is added in the direction different 180 degrees in a ferromagnetic 83 at a ferromagnetic 85. Consequently, two ferromagnetics 83 and the angle which magnetization of 85 makes become anti-parallel in the state of the signal magnetic field 0. In addition, the signal magnetic field Hs is added in the direction of y in drawing.

[0249] There is also a method shown below among the methods of impressing the bias magnetic field of an opposite direction to ferromagnetics 83 and 85 with the antiferromagnetism film 82. Using the film which has Neel temperature which is different as two antiferromagnetism films 82, respectively, static magnetic field heat treatment is performed above such Neel temperature, and the 180 degrees of the directions of a static magnetic field are reversed at a middle temperature of the Neel temperature of both the antiferromagnetism film 82 during a temperature fall. Consequently, the bias magnetic field to an opposite direction can be given to ferromagnetics 83 and 85.

[0250] In this example, since magnetization rotation of the ferromagnetic which the exchange bias from an antiferromagnetism film joined is used unlike the film of the conventional spin bulb structure, as for the exchange bias magnetic field, it is desirable that it is the magnetic field which is not strong out of the degree which controls a Barkhausen noise. For example, although it differs according to the width of recording track of an application arm head etc., it is 5kA/m at the maximum. However, by the film of the present spin bulb structure, although it is common to use the exchange bias magnetic field by the antiferromagnetism film which consists of FeMn, if the direct laminating of a FeMn film and the ferromagnetics, such as a NiFe film, is carried out in this case, the exchange bias of 10 or more kA/m will arise. In order to reduce the exchange bias, there are a method of inserting the film for exchange bias compensation, for example, the low ferromagnetic and low nonmagnetic membrane of saturation magnetization, in the middle of an antiferromagnetism film and a ferromagnetic and a method of making nonmagnetic membranes 87 and 88 intervene in each film of ferromagnetics 83 and 85, namely, dividing ferromagnetics 83 and 85 into 83a, and 83b, 85a and 85b, respectively, as shown in drawing 61.

[0251] Although strong exchange bias joins the ferromagnetics 83a and 85a of the side which touches the antiferromagnetism film 82 by the method of making a nonmagnetic membrane intervening in a ferromagnetic, weak exchange bias joins the ferromagnetics 83b and 85b of the side which does not touch the antiferromagnetism film 82. The magnitude of the exchange bias to the ferromagnetics 83b and 85b of the side which does not touch the antiferromagnetism film 82 can be reduced by the class of material of nonmagnetic membranes 87 and 88, or its thickness.

[0252] Although the angle which magnetization of Ferromagnetics 83a and 83b makes here, and the angle which magnetization of Ferromagnetics 85a and 85b makes change from a ferromagnetism—array to an antiferromagnetism—array by the magnetization rotation by the signal magnetic field, the angle which magnetization of the ferromagnetics 83b and 85b in a film center section makes changes from an antiferromagnetism—[ reverse ] array to a ferromagnetism—array. Therefore, spin dependence dispersion of the former and the latter is offset. Then, as a material of Ferromagnetics 83a and 85a and nonmagnetic membranes 87 and 88, there is no spin dependence scattering power force, and it is desirable that it is the thing of high resistance. Furthermore, as for the thickness of the ferromagnetics 83a and 85a of the side which touches the antiferromagnetism film 82, it is desirable to make it small compared with the thickness of the ferromagnetics 83b and 85b of the side which does not touch the antiferromagnetism film 82.

[0253] By things, the magnetization direction of ferromagnetics 83 and 85 can be arranged with anti-parallel by the magnetic field 0 making it be the above. Consequently, even when a signal magnetic field is added to the difficult shaft orientations (the direction of y in drawing) suitable for the magnetic head, the condition that the angle which the magnetization between both ferromagnetics makes by magnetization rotation of both ferromagnetics changes to 0–180 degrees can be realized, and high resistance rate of change comparable as easy shaft orientations can be realized [1st]. Since a bias magnetic field joins two ferromagnetics, to the 2nd, a magnetic domain wall can be abolished from both ferromagnetics, and a Barkhausen noise can be controlled to it. By the method by which the 3rd and sense current and a signal magnetic field cross at right angles, conventionally, by spin bulb structure, when the offset NiFe film is used, it can serve as the remarkable usual magneto-resistive effect and the resistance change by spin dependence dispersion, and increase of \*\*R/R can be expected. [0254] (Example 33) The example 32 showed how to carry out magnetization of both ferromagnetics to anti-parallel using two antiferromagnetism films. however, the anti-magnetic field produced when it is not necessary to necessarily add a bias magnetic field only by the antiferromagnetism film and a leakage magnetic field and a detailed configuration are processed from a hard magnetic film -- also using -- it is good. Next, the example is explained. [0255] The ferromagnetic 91 which has the spin dependence scattering power force, the nonmagnetic membrane 92, and the ferromagnetic 93 were formed on the substrate 90 so that drawing 62 might show. The thickness of ferromagnetics 91 and 93 and a nonmagnetic membrane 92 presupposed that it is the same as that of an example 32. The antiferromagnetism film 94 with a thickness of 2-50nm was formed on it, and exchange bias was impressed to the ferromagnetic 93. Furthermore, the hard magnetic film 95 which consists of CoPt with a thickness of 10-50nm and CoNi was formed on it. The electrode terminal 96 was formed on the hard magnetic film 95. All membrane formation was performed in the static magnetic field (x in drawing direction).

[0256] Subsequently, the magnetic field of 400 – 800 kA/m was added in the same direction as the direction of an exchange bias magnetic field by the antiferromagnetism film 94, and the hard magnetic film 95 was magnetized in the x directions. Consequently, the bias magnetic field joined the ferromagnetic 91 in the minus x direction by the leak magnetic field from the edge section of the hard magnetic film 95, and magnetization of ferromagnetics 91 and 93 changed into the antiparallel condition. In addition, although the bias magnetic field from the hard magnetic film 95 also joins a ferromagnetic 93, the anti-parallel magnetization condition mentioned above is realizable by setting up the exchange bias force so that the direction of the exchange bias magnetic field from the antiferromagnetism film 94 may become strong. In addition, it is not necessary to form the hard magnetic film 95 and the antiferromagnetism film 94 all over a ferromagnetic 93, and you may form only in the edge section (about 96 electrode terminal) of a ferromagnetic 93.

[0257] In addition, the ferromagnetic near soft magnetism can also be used for 95 of drawing 62 instead of a hard magnetic film. In this case, it is necessary to carry out the laminating of the ferromagnetic near soft magnetism so that exchange bias may be added from the antiferromagnetism film 94. If exchange bias joins a ferromagnetic 95, since magnetization of a ferromagnetic 95 can be fixed to an one direction, it can give in the direction different 180 degrees from the exchange bias magnetic field from the antiferromagnetism film 94 which joins a ferromagnetic 93 by processing into a detailed pattern configuration indispensable to a magnetoresistive effect the magnetostatic joint bias magnetic field stabilized even if external magnetic fields, such as a signal magnetic field, were added at a ferromagnetic 91. At this time, the bias magnetic field of desired reinforcement can be given to a ferromagnetic 91 by adjusting the thickness and the saturation magnetization of a ferromagnetic 95.

[0258] Moreover, desired shunt splitting operating point bias can be given by adjusting the resistivity and thickness of a ferromagnetic 95. Here, in a ferromagnetic 95, it is difficult to be compatible in the property (for the antiferromagnetism film 94 and a crystalline ferromagnetic with same crystal structure and lattice constant, for example, a NiFe film, a CoFe film, a CoFeTa film, and a CoFePd film to be desirable since it grows epitaxially with the antiferromagnetism film

94) required of carrying out switched connection to the antiferromagnetism film 94, and the property required of magnetostatic joint bias or operating point bias (by the above-mentioned crystalline film, resistivity is too low). Then, as for a ferromagnetic 95, it is desirable that it is the two-layer structure in which the magnetic films for switched connection (NiFe, CoFe system ferromagnetic, etc.) which touch the antiferromagnetism film 94, and the ferromagnetics for bias (carbonization microcrystal films, such as nitriding microcrystal films, such as Co system amorphous film and FeTaN, or FeZrC etc.) carry out ferromagnetic switched connection by the interface.

[0259] In the case of the structure shown in drawing 62, since the sense current from an electrode terminal 96 carries out splitting to the hard magnetic film 95, it is not avoided that deltaR/R decreases to some extent. This problem is solvable with the structure shown in drawing 63 - drawing 65.

[0260] That is, as shown in drawing 63, on a substrate 90, even the antiferromagnetism film 94 forms membranes like drawing 62, and the hard magnetic film 95 is formed near both the sides of the antiferromagnetism film 94 after that. An electrode terminal 96 is formed in the inside at the gap equivalent to the width of recording track. Consequently, it can prevent that sense current flows to the hard magnetic film 95, and the fall of deltaR/R can be controlled. [0261] On the other hand, as shown in drawing 64, the hard magnetic film 95 is formed in the beginning on a substrate 90, on it, sequential formation of a ferromagnetic 91, a nonmagnetic membrane 92, a ferromagnetic 93, and the antiferromagnetism film 94 is carried out through an insulator layer 97, and an electrode terminal 96 is formed further. At this time, a static magnetic field is added during membrane formation, and a predetermined exchange bias magnetic field is added to a ferromagnetic 93 from the antiferromagnetism film 94. The hard magnetic film 95 is magnetized in this direction of exchange bias, and the same direction after membrane formation. It can prevent that can impress the bias magnetic field of an opposite direction to ferromagnetics 91 and 93, and current moreover flows to the hard magnetic film 95 also by this method. In addition, an insulator layer 97 has the effect which prevents adding an excessive bias magnetic field by the switched connection of the hard magnetic film 95 and a ferromagnetic 91. [0262] Moreover, as shown in drawing 65, sequential membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 91, a nonmagnetic membrane 92, a ferromagnetic 93, and the antiferromagnetism film 94 is carried out on a substrate 90. Next, micro processing of this cascade screen is carried out to a predetermined configuration. This micro processing forms a mask using a resist etc., and performs it by ion milling etc. Then, the hard magnetic film 95 is formed in the side of a ferromagnetic 91 by the lift-off method using this remaining mask. Finally, with the exchange bias which joins a ferromagnetic 93, the hard magnetic film 95 is magnetized to hard flow. It can prevent that can impress the bias magnetic field of an opposite direction to ferromagnetics 91 and 93, and current moreover flows to the hard magnetic film 95 also by this method. [0263] (Example 34) It sets in the spin bulb structure shown in drawing 61, and is 1at% on a glass substrate 80. Cu substrate film with a thickness [ containing Cr ] of 5nm, As an antiferromagnetism film 82, as a FeMn film with a thickness of 15nm and ferromagnetic 83a nickel80Fe20 film with a thickness of 1nm, It is 1at% as a nonmagnetic membrane 87. Cu film with a thickness [ containing Cr ] of 1.5nm, As ferromagnetic 83b, as nickel80Fe20 film with a thickness of 6nm and a nonmagnetic membrane 84 Cu film with a thickness of 2.5nm, It is 1at% as nickel80Fe20 film with a thickness of 6nm and a nonmagnetic membrane 87 as ferromagnetic 85b. Sequential formation of the FeMn film with a thickness of 15nm was carried out as an antiferromagnetism film 82 at nickel80Fe20 film with a thickness of 1nm and the list as Cu film with a thickness [ containing Cr ] of 1.5nm, and ferromagnetic 85a. [0264] Membrane formation of these films was performed to the package, without breaking a

vacuum by the 2 pole sputtering method in the static magnetic field by the permanent magnet. In addition, this permanent magnet is not attached in the substrate electrode holder in one. Moreover, at this time, it carried out on the conditions of 1x10 – 4 or less Pa of reserve exhaust pressures, and 0.4Pa of Ar gas pressure, and after membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 83 was completed, 180 degrees of substrate electrode holders were rotated, and the 180 degrees of the directions of the bias magnetic field (about 4000 A/m) by the permanent magnet were

reversed. Thus, the cascade screen of spin bulb structure which can realize the anti-parallel condition of both ferromagnetic magnetization by the signal magnetic field 0 was produced. [0265] Resistance of the obtained cascade screen was measured by 4 terminal method. The voltage for 4mm was measured having added 1mA constant current to the easy shaft orientations of ferromagnetics 83 and 85, and having specifically used width of face of the film of difficult shaft orientations as 1mm. The magnetic field was added to the difficult shaft orientations of ferromagnetics 83 and 85 by Helmholtz coils. Consequently, the acquired resistance-magnetic influence is shown in drawing 67.

[0266] In drawing 66, resistance standardizes and shows the value in the maximum magnetic field (16 kA/m) to 1. Since an anti-parallel condition has magnetization of ferromagnetics 83 and 85 in a magnetic field 0, resistance shows maximum. If a magnetic field is added, resistance will fall rapidly. By the magnetic field of 2000 or more A/m, especially resistance shows about 1 constant value. It turns out that about 3.8% or less of resistance rate of change arises in [ few / magnetic field ] 2000 or less A/m. Moreover, a hysteresis and a noise are hardly accepted in this resistance-magnetic influence. That is, if the cascade screen of this spin bulb structure is used, the magnetic head with few noises can be remarkably obtained by high sensitivity. [0267] Furthermore, the spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element shown in drawing 60

was produced, and the relation between the thickness of a non-magnetic layer 84 (Cu) and resistance rate of change was investigated. The result is shown in the following table 6. The FeMn film with a thickness of 10nm was used for the antiferromagnetism film 82 at ferromagnetics 83 and 85 at the substrate film using the NiFe film with a thickness of 8nm using the NiFe film with a thickness of 5nm. [0268]

[A table 6]

中酯(Cu)厚(nm)	抵债(%)	
1. 2	9.1	
1. 6	5. 7	
2. 2	3.9	
3. 3	3. 0	

As shown in a table 6, when Cu thickness became thin, resistance rate of change increased rapidly, and by 1.2nm, 9% of high resistance rate of change was obtained for Cu thickness. Since the comparatively big anti-parallel bias magnetic field of 50 kA/m has joined the ferromagnetic 83 and the ferromagnetic 85 at each, this is because the antiferromagnetism magnetization array stabilized even if it made thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane 84 thin is realizable. When making non-magnetic layer (Cu) thickness thin to less than 2nm, unlike the conventional spin bulb mold magneto-resistive effect element for which an anti-parallel magnetization array collapses and resistance rate of change decreases sharply, the bias magnetic field of an opposite direction is added to both ferromagnetics 83 and 84, and resistance rate of change can be sharply increased by making thickness of a nonmagnetic membrane 84 thin. [0269] (Example 35) Next, the number of the ferromagnetics which have the spin dependence

scattering power force is explained about an increase or the case where it carries out, more than three layer.

[0270] The substrate film 101 for controlling the orientation of the antiferromagnetism film 102 on a substrate 100 to be shown in drawing 67, FeMn, The antiferromagnetism film 102 with a thickness of 5-50nm it is thin from NiO, PtMn, etc., CoFe, The ferromagnetic 103 with a thickness of 1-20nm it is thin from Co, NiFe, etc., Cu, The nonmagnetic membrane 104 with a thickness of 1-10nm it is thin from Au etc., the ferromagnetic 105 with a thickness of 1-20nm, the nonmagnetic membrane 106 with a thickness of 1-10nm, the ferromagnetic 107 with a thickness of 1-20nm, and the antiferromagnetism film 108 with a thickness of 5-50nm were formed. Here, even if all the thickness of a ferromagnetic 103,105,107 is equal, it may differ. Furthermore, on it, the protective coat was formed if needed and the electrode terminal 109 was formed. In addition, membrane formation was performed in the static magnetic field. [0271] Exchange bias was added to ferromagnetics 103 and 107 from the antiferromagnetism films 102 and 108 in the one direction (x in drawing direction), respectively. Consequently, only the middle ferromagnetic 105 had high permeability and ferromagnetics 103 and 107 have realized fixing of low permeability, i.e., magnetization. The hard magnetic film 95 as shown not by the antiferromagnetism film but by drawing 63 may be used for fixing of this magnetization. In addition, although soft magnetism is not so good as a material of the ferromagnetics 103 and 107 which touch the antiferromagnetism films 102 and 108, although resistance rate of change is not so high as a material of the middle ferromagnetic 105, when soft magnetism uses good NiFe using high Co and high CoFe of resistance rate of change, high resistance rate of change is realizable by the low magnetic field.

[0272] Since the number of interfaces which magnetization rotation of the middle ferromagnetic 105 took place easily by the low magnetic field, and minded the non-magnetic layer by such configuration increases twice compared with the film of the conventional spin bulb structure, the resistance rate of change exceeding the film of the spin bulb structure conventional by the low magnetic field is realizable. Moreover, since the ferromagnetic which carries out magnetization rotation by the signal magnetic field will be located in the center of this cascade screen, the turbulence of magnetization of the ferromagnetic by the sense current magnetic field is slight, and the stable signal detection becomes possible. In addition, if the bias method by hard magnetic film which was explained in the example 33, or the anti-magnetic field is used together, the angle which magnetization of ferromagnetics 103 and 107 and the middle ferromagnetic 105 makes can be made anti-parallel by the signal magnetic field 0. Consequently, the magneto-resistive effect element of a low noise can be further obtained by high sensitivity according to the various effects stated in the example 32.

[0273] (Example 36) <u>Drawing 68</u> shows [ four layer ] an increase and the cascade screen carried out for the number of the ferromagnetics which have the spin dependence scattering power force.

[0274] On the substrate 100, sequential formation of the antiferromagnetism film 111, the ferromagnetic 112,114,116,118 of four layers which carried out the laminating through the non-magnetic layer 113,115,117, and the antiferromagnetism film 119 was carried out, and the electrode terminal 109 was formed on it so that sense current might flow in a signal magnetic field and this direction. Under the antiferromagnetism film 111, a protective coat is formed for the substrate film for orientation control on the antiferromagnetism film 119 if needed. The material of each film and thickness presupposed that it is the same as that of what was shown in drawing 67.

[0275] At least during membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 112, the static magnetic field was given in the x in drawing direction (truck cross direction), on the other hand, it was in the middle of subsequent membrane formation, and it was [ 180 degrees of the directions of a static magnetic field ] reversed, and the static magnetic field was given in the minus—among drawing x direction at least during membrane formation of the antiferromagnetism film 119. By the static magnetic field under this membrane formation, magnetization fixing [ according to an exchange bias magnetic field in a ferromagnetic 118 ] according to minus x direction in a ferromagnetic 112 is produced in the x directions. Moreover, with this configuration, since the width of face of a ferromagnetic 112,114,116,118 will become narrow similarly if the width of recording track is narrow, an anti-magnetic field strong against that direction occurs. By this anti-magnetic field, magnetization of the middle ferromagnetics 114 and 116 which are not in contact with an antiferromagnetism film becomes magnetization and anti-parallel of ferromagnetics 112 and 118, respectively. That is, in the signal magnetic field 0, the magnetization which the ferromagnetic of four layers adjoins will be mutually fit for anti-parallel.

[0276] In addition, when the anti-magnetic field to the middle ferromagnetics 114 and 116 is inadequate, it is desirable to add sense current in the direction of y in drawing so that the magnetic field generated according to sense current may be added in the minus x direction by ferromagnetics 112 and 114 and may be added in the x directions by ferromagnetics 116 and 118. Here, if the exchange bias magnetic field from an antiferromagnetism film is set up so that it

may become larger than a sense current magnetic field, magnetization of ferromagnetics 112 and 118 can be fixed in the direction of exchange bias from an antiferromagnetism film, without being disturbed by the current magnetic field.

[0277] By making it such a configuration, each magnetization direction of the ferromagnetic of four layers can be arranged in antiferromagnetism by the signal magnetic field 0. Therefore, deltaR/R increases corresponding to the increment in the number of interfaces. Moreover, since magnetization of each class can rotate when a signal magnetic field is added slightly, the magneto-resistive effect element using high sensitivity spin dependence dispersion is realizable. [0278] (Example 37) Next, magnetization of some ferromagnetics which have the spin dependence scattering power force is fixed, and the case where magnetization of the remaining ferromagnetics is arranged in the direction of a signal magnetic field and the different direction by the signal magnetic field 0 is explained.

[0279] <u>Drawing 69</u> shows the cascade screen a cascade screen and sense current and the direction of a signal magnetic field cross at right angles. Sequential formation of the cascade screen of the ferromagnetics 121 and 123 which have the spin dependence scattering power force in which the nonmagnetic membrane 122 was made to intervene on a substrate 120, and the antiferromagnetism film 124 was carried out. The material of each film and thickness presupposed that it is the same as that of what was shown in <u>drawing 60</u>. If needed, after forming a protective coat on the antiferromagnetism film 124, the electrode terminal 125 was formed.

[0280] Here, at least during membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 121, the static magnetic field was given in the direction of two bisectrices of the x axis in drawing, and the y-axis, on the other hand, at least during membrane formation of the antiferromagnetism film 124, 45 degrees was rotated with the direction of former, and the direction of the static magnetic field was given (the direction of y in drawing). Consequently, magnetization of a ferromagnetic 121 was given in the x directions of said static magnetic field, and magnetization of a ferromagnetic 123 fixed in the direction of a signal magnetic field by the bias magnetic field from the antiferromagnetism film 124. If according to such a configuration the angle which magnetization of both ferromagnetics makes in the signal magnetic field 0 becomes 45 degrees and a signal magnetic field is added in the magnetization fixing direction of a ferromagnetic 123, since the magnetization direction of both ferromagnetics will become a ferromagnetism-array, resistance decreases, and if a signal magnetic field joins reverse in the magnetization fixing direction and the direction different 180 degrees, since it becomes to an antiferromagnetism–[ the magnetization direction of both ferromagnetics ] array, resistance will increase. Therefore, in order to realize a line type response, the operating point bias which was required for the conventional magneto-resistive effect element becomes unnecessary. In addition, by this method, magnetization of a ferromagnetic 121 tends to incline towards the direction of y by the signal magnetic field 0 by ferromagnetism-association with ferromagnetics 121 and 123, and when a big signal magnetic field is added, there is orientation for a regenerative signal to tends to be distorted. This is avoidable by deciding the sense to which sense current flows so that the magnetic field and current magnetic field by this ferromagnetism-association may be offset so that the current magnetic field generated according to sense current may be added in this ferromagnetism joint direction and the direction different 180 degrees by the ferromagnetic 121. [0281] However, if the magnetization M of a ferromagnetic 121 inclines in the direction of magnetization M of a ferromagnetic 123 by the magnetic field by this ferromagnetism-association at reverse in using for a ferromagnetic 121 or 123 the film which has an anisotropy magnetoresistive effect, since the resistance change by the magnetic anisotropy and spin objection dispersion is overlapped, there is an advantage which can expect the improvement in sensitivity (since the directions of current are x directions). According to the condition that a magnetoresistive effect element is used, the means of the direction of current etc. actually needs to adjust the magnetization direction of a ferromagnetic 121.

[0282] By the way, it is necessary to add a vertical bias magnetic field (bias magnetic field of the direction of 2 bisectrices of the x axis in drawing, and the y-axis) required for Barkhausen noise control in the example 37. For that, switched connection of the antiferromagnetism film as shown

in the example 32 is arranged and carried out to the substrate side of a ferromagnetic 121. Or as shown in <u>drawing</u> 70 (A), the laminating of the ferromagnetic 126 with sufficient (Hc is smaller than the exchange bias magnetic field HUA) soft magnetism to some extent is carried out on the antiferromagnetism film 124, and the method of reversing the 135 degrees of the directions of a bias magnetic field under membrane formation in general, and adding the exchange bias magnetic field from a ferromagnetic 126 at a ferromagnetic 121 is at least all over the laminating of this ferromagnetic 126. In this case, since the film which is a spin dependence dispersion unit also achieves the duty of a substrate film, exchange bias can be easily given to the ferromagnetic 126 which formed membranes on the antiferromagnetism film 124. Consequently, by the magnetostatic joint magnetic field (anti-magnetic field) generated when it is processed into the detailed pattern which actually fitted the reproducing head, since a vertical bias magnetic field can be added to a ferromagnetic 121, a Barkhausen noise can be controlled. [0283] In the example of drawing 70 (A), since the directions of exchange bias differ on film surface both the sides of the antiferromagnetism film 124, the direction of a bias magnetic field may become uneasy, the pole which does not check crystal growth although this weakens magnetic coupling for the antiferromagnetism film 124 in the middle as shown in drawing 70 (B) -- it is avoidable by separating into the antiferromagnetism films 124a and 124c through thin interlayer 124b (fcc \*\*\*\*, such as Cu). As the example 32 described, in order to make controllable the direction of an exchange bias magnetic field by heat treatment at this time, as for the antiferromagnetism films 124a and 124c, it is desirable to consist of materials with which a Neel point differs from blocking temperature. Furthermore, a ferromagnetic 126 is thick, and since sense current will carry out splitting to a ferromagnetic 126 at this time although a desired vertical bias magnetic field cannot give a ferromagnetic 121 if Bs is not high, a high thing is desirable [ the resistivity of a ferromagnetic ]. Specifically, it is desirable to use the amorphous film of Co system or Fe system, and nitriding or a carbonization microcrystal film. However, since it is hard to carry out switched connection of such a film to antiferromagnetism films, such as FeMn, it is desirable to carry out a laminating so that the laminating of the ferromagnetic 124b which is easy to carry out switched connection, such as very thin NiFe and CoFeTa, may be carried out to the portion which touches antiferromagnetism film 124a and ferromagnetic switched connection of the amorphous high Bs ferromagnetic 126a of high resistance may be carried out on it.

[0284] (Example 38) Drawing 70 (C) shows a cascade screen with parallel sense current and direction of a signal magnetic field. It is the same as that of the configuration of drawing 69 except the directions where sense current flows differing, and magnetization of a ferromagnetic 121 being given in the x in drawing direction, and 90 degrees of membranous longitudinal directions rotating. If the angle which magnetization of both ferromagnetics makes by the signal magnetic field 0 in this configuration becomes 90 degrees and a signal magnetic field is added in the magnetization fixing direction of a ferromagnetic 123, since magnetization of both ferromagnetics will become a ferromagnetism-array, resistance decreases, and since it will become to an antiferromagnetism-[ magnetization of both ferromagnetics ] array if a signal magnetic field joins reverse in the magnetization fixing direction and the direction different 180 degrees, resistance increases. Therefore, operating point bias becomes unnecessary in \*\*. With this configuration, the current magnetic fields by sense current are the easy shaft orientations of a ferromagnetic 121, and it is effective in this magnetic field controlling a Barkhausen noise. [0285] Furthermore, in the example 38, it is added that magnetization of a ferromagnetic 121 tends to incline in the direction of y for the ferro joint magnetic field which is easy to generate from a ferromagnetic 123. As the example 37 explained in detail, although a signal magnetic field dynamic range shrinks as for this ferromagnetic-like joint magnetic field, it has the advantage which superimposes an anisotropy magneto-resistive effect. In addition, since a current magnetic field joins a ferromagnetic 121, there necessarily needs to be no easy shaft of a ferromagnetic 121 in the x directions.

[0286] When Barkhausen noise depressor effect is inadequate, by removing the magnetization fixing direction of a ferromagnetic 123 from a signal magnetic field, a magnetostatic joint magnetic field occurs in the x in drawing direction, and a stronger Barkhausen noise control

magnetic field can be given to it.

[0287] (Example 39) <u>Drawing 71</u> shows the cascade screen at the time of making into three layers the ferromagnetic which has the spin dependence scattering power force. <u>Drawing 71</u> shows the case where sense current and a signal magnetic field intersect perpendicularly. Sequential formation of the cascade screen of the ferromagnetic 132,134,136 which has the spin dependence scattering power force in which the antiferromagnetism film 131 and nonmagnetic membranes 133 and 135 were made to intervene in a static magnetic field on a substrate 130, and the antiferromagnetism film 137 was carried out. The electrode terminal 138 was formed on it.

[0288] Here, the direction of a static magnetic field was made into the direction (the direction of 2 bisectrices of the x axis in drawing, and the y-axis) which makes it and a 45-degree angle during membrane formation of (the direction of y in drawing), and a ferromagnetic 134 as the direction same during membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 132 and the antiferromagnetism film 137 at least. Consequently, magnetization of ferromagnetics 132 and 136 fixes in the direction of y in drawing, and magnetization of a ferromagnetic 134 maintains high permeability and is suitable in a magnetic field 0 near the direction of 2 bisectrices of the x axis in drawing, and the v-axis. Therefore, if the angle at which magnetization of both ferromagnetics also makes this configuration by the magnetic field 0 becomes about 45 degrees and a signal magnetic field is added in the magnetization fixing direction of a ferromagnetic 136, since the magnetization direction of both ferromagnetics will become a ferromagnetism-array, resistance decreases, and if a signal magnetic field joins reverse in the magnetization fixing direction and the direction different 180 degrees, since it becomes to an antiferromagnetism-[ the magnetization direction of both ferromagnetics ] array, resistance will increase. That is, operating point bias becomes unnecessary. With this configuration, since the number of interfaces increases twice, sensitivity also improves.

[0289] (Example 40) The resistance-magnetic influence of the cascade screen of the magneto-resistive effect element of the method shown in the example 38 is explained.
[0290] In drawing 70 (C), a sapphire C side substrate is used as a substrate 120. Co90Fe10 film

with a thickness of 6nm which has Pd substrate film with a thickness of 5nm as a ferromagnetic 121 is used. 5nm Pd film was further formed for thickness as a protective coat on it, using a FeMn film with a thickness of 15nm as an antiferromagnetism film 124, using Co90Fe10 film with a thickness of 4nm as a ferromagnetic 123, using Cu film with a thickness of 3nm as a nonmagnetic membrane 122.

[0291] This cascade screen formed membranes to the package, maintaining a vacuum by the 2 pole sputtering method. In addition, during membrane formation, the permanent magnet gave the static magnetic field, after finishing membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 121, the 90 degrees of the directions of a static magnetic field were reversed, and the angle which the easy shaft of ferromagnetics 121 and 123 makes was made into 90 degrees. Moreover, 1x10 – 4 or less Pa and sputtering gas \*\* set preliminary exhaust air of sputtering to 0.4Pa.

[0292] The resistance-magnetic influence of this cascade screen was measured like the example 33. The resistance-magnetic influence of difficult shaft orientations is shown in <u>drawing 72</u>. In <u>drawing 72</u>, resistance in a ferromagnetism magnetization array is standardized as 1. Magnetic field change of good resistance of linearity is obtained by the signal magnetic field 0 so that <u>drawing 72</u> may show. Thereby, it turns out that operating point bias is unnecessary.

[0293] (Example 41) Here, the laminating of another ferromagnetic or the antiferromagnetism film is carried out to both the ferromagnetics of the spin dependence dispersion unit which consists of a ferromagnetic / a nonmagnetic membrane / a ferromagnetic more than two-layer, and the example of the magneto-resistive effect element which made both the bias magnetic field then generated intersect perpendicularly in general is shown.

[0294] <u>Drawing 73</u> on a substrate 120 A high Hk ferromagnetic with bigger hard ferromagnetics, such as CoPt, and uniaxial-magnetic-anisotropy magnetic field Hk than the ferromagnetic of a spin dependence dispersion unit 1st bias film 121a for impressing the bias magnetic field which consists of antiferromagnetism films, such as NiO, (For example, CoFeRe film of Hk - 5 kA/m etc.) The multilayers which carried out the laminating of the 2nd bias film 124 for impressing the

bias magnetic field which consists of antiferromagnetism films, such as a spin dependence dispersion unit (a ferromagnetic 121, a nonmagnetic membrane 122, ferromagnetic 123) and FeMn, one by one are shown. A bias magnetic field mainly joins a ferromagnetic 121 by the switched connection to which the bias magnetic field generated from 1st bias film 121a of these multilayers let the laminating interface pass. On the other hand, the bias magnetic field generated from the 2nd bias film 124 mainly joins a ferromagnetic 123 by the switched connection through a laminating interface. This 1st and 2nd bias magnetic field is added so that direction relation which intersects perpendicularly in general may be satisfied. Furthermore, magnetization of a ferromagnetic 123 makes the 2nd bias magnetic field a value with the strong degree which cannot move by the signal magnetic field substantially (10 or more kA/m is desirable).

[0295] On the other hand, the 1st bias magnetic field strength can rotate magnetization of a ferromagnetic 121 by the signal magnetic field, and makes it the magnetic field which is the degree which can control a Barkhausen noise. When using an antiferromagnetism film for the 1st bias film, specifically, it is desirable to make the bias magnetic field of bias film 121a and a ferromagnetic 121 into 5 or less kA/m. If the magnetization direction of bias film 121a is held in the fixed direction with a certain means, it single-domain-izes and it unifies bias film 121a and a ferromagnetic 121 by strong switched connection in using a ferromagnetic for the 1st bias film, bias film 121a and a ferromagnetic 121 can rotate in general similarly by the signal magnetic field, and since ferromagnetic 121a is a single domain, a ferromagnetic 121 also becomes a single domain and can remove a Barkhausen noise. Or there is also the method of inserting another layer in an interface, for example, and weakening less than [ of bias film 121a and a ferromagnetic 121 / switched connection -5 kA/m ]. In this case, in order that only a ferromagnetic 121 may carry out magnetization rotation by the signal magnetic field, it is desirable to make magnetization hard to control the permeability of bias film 121a and to move. As this permeability control means, there is, adding a tropism bias magnetic field to bias film 121a on the other hand with improvement in Hk, the improvement in coercive force, or a certain means etc.

[0296] Here, as a means to single-domain-ize ferromagnetic 121a, as shown in drawing 74, it is possible to make bias film 121a longer than a spin bulb unit, and to carry out the laminating of a new antiferromagnetism film or the hard film 121b to the edge section of bias film 121a etc. [0297] if the magneto-resistive effect element of the above configuration is produced, since the magnetization direction of a ferromagnetic 123 will be fixed and magnetization of a ferromagnetic 121 will change according to a signal magnetic field, a high sensitivity magneto-resistive effect element with good linearity obtains by signal magnetic field -0 like the example shown in drawing <u>69 -- having -- in addition -- and since the magnetic domain wall of the ferromagnetic 121</u> which detects a signal magnetic field is also removable, operating point bias's being unnecessary and the signal magnetic field playback without high sensitivity and a noise are attained. [0298] When giving the direction of an easy axis of a ferromagnetic 121 in the direction of a bias magnetic field and the direction which intersects perpendicularly here uses the ferromagnetic of big Co system of especially a magnetic anisotropy for 121, it is desirable. If it does so, since the saturation magnetic field and bias magnetic field equivalent to an anisotropy field can be offset and Hs can decrease sharply, the inclination of the saturation magnetic field-resistive characteristic shown in drawing 69 becomes steep, and high sensitivity signal magnetic field detection is attained compared with the case where the usual direction of a bias magnetic field and the easy axis of a ferromagnetic 121 are these directions. In order to change a bias magnetic field and the easy shaft orientation of a ferromagnetic, there is a method of changing the magnetic field impression direction under membrane formation of bias film 121a and the magnetic field grant direction under membrane formation of a ferromagnetic 121 etc. [0299] As shown in drawing 75, (Example 42) On the support substrate 140 Sequential formation of the ferromagnetic 144 which consists of a nonmagnetic membrane 143 with a thickness of 3nm it is thin from the high coercive force film 142 with a thickness of 8nm it is thin from Cr substrate film 141 with a thickness [ for controlling the orientation of a high coercive force film ] of 20nm, Co, etc., Cu, etc., NiFe with a thickness of 4.6nm, etc. is carried out. Further The

electrode terminal 145 was formed on it and the magneto-resistive effect element of spin bulb structure was produced. In addition, ultra-high-vacuum E gun vacuum evaporationo performed membrane formation of a cascade screen. Substrate temperature at this time was made into about 100 degrees C, and the inside of a vacuum chamber was exhausted to 1x10 - 8 or less Pa.

[0300] The X diffraction pattern was investigated about the Co/Cr film at the time of considering as the substrate temperature of about 100 degrees C. The result is shown in drawing 76 . As for this film, also as for Co film with which Cr (200) is high orientation and used this Cr film as the substrate film, (110) was high orientation as shown in drawing 76. In addition, the rocking curve half-value width of Co (110) peak was about 3 degrees. Next, the R-H curve of the difficult shaft orientations of the cascade screen of the structure of NiFe/Cu/Co/Cr/substrate shown in drawing 75 which formed membranes at the substrate temperature of about 100 degrees C is shown in drawing 77. The R-H curve processed the cascade screen into the 2mmx6micrometer pattern using the usual resist process and ion mealing, and created it based on the value measured by 4 terminal method. At this time, the easy shaft was made into the pattern longitudinal direction, and the magnetic field was added crosswise [ pattern ]. [0301] As shown in drawing 77, in impression magnetic field\*\*80Oe, it became about 6.5% of resistance rate of change, and the saturation magnetic field became about 3.6 kA/m. [0302] Although this structure is satisfactory when the magnetic field from data medium is less than 8kA/m since Hc(s) of a high coercive force film are about 8 kA/m, it is not suitable for the structure, i.e., the structure where the magnetic field from data medium becomes 8 or more kA/m, where between an arm head and data medium is near. Then, substrate temperature was made into about 200 degrees C by the same structure as drawing 75, and thickness, and the cascade screen was further formed in the magnetic field of about 8 kA/m. [0303] The X diffraction pattern of Co/Cr at the time of considering as the substrate temperature of about 200 degrees C was almost the same as drawing 76. Moreover, this cascade screen of the rocking curve half-value width of Co (110) peak was also about 3 degrees. Furthermore, when measured in the pole figure skating, the bias of a hexagonal C shaft was seen in the direction of a magnetic field. Therefore, the single crystal's Co was obtained compared with the cascade screen which formed membranes in the substrate temperature of 100 degrees C, and a non-magnetic field.

[0304] Next, the R-H curve of the difficult shaft orientations of the cascade screen of the same structure as drawing 75 which formed membranes in the substrate temperature of about 200 degrees C and a magnetic field is shown in drawing 78. The R-H curve processed the cascade screen into the 2mmx6micrometer pattern like the above, and created it based on the value measured by 4 terminal method. At this time, the easy shaft (C shaft orientation) was made into the pattern longitudinal direction, and added the magnetic field crosswise [ pattern ]. [0305] As shown in drawing 78, by the impression magnetic field, magnetization of a high coercive force film was hardly able to be moved also by the case of external magnetic field\*\*1.6 kA/m, and, moreover, was also able to keep the saturation magnetic field of a NiFe film low in m and about 2.8kA /by it. Moreover, resistance rate of change also became about 7.5%. [0306] Since the cascade screen of the above-mentioned configuration had stable magnetization of a high coercive force film also in external magnetic field 1.6 kA/m, it produced the pattern which makes C shaft of Co a longitudinal direction in general by making the easy shaft of a NiFe film into the cross direction. Operating point bias becomes unnecessary by this configuration. At this time, the magnetic field was added to the pattern longitudinal direction, and the R-H curve at that time was measured. In addition, the pattern configuration was set to 2mmx6micrometer like the above. The result is shown in drawing 79 . The good R-H curve without a hysteresis was obtained, and Hk also showed the value low in m and about 1.6kA /so that drawing 79 might show.

[0307] Moreover, although Co film was used as a high coercive force film here, a CoNi film and a CoCr film may be used. Furthermore, as a substrate film, W film etc. may be used other than Cr film, and an alloying element may be added to it by using such Cr(s) and W as the base. In addition, this substrate film is applicable to the so-called substrate film of a hard film over whole

this invention. Thereby, C shaft can be made to be able to exist in the film surface of a hard magnetism film (C shaft is assembled in the specific direction). Therefore, when a hard magnetism film is fixed, it can prevent fixing to the ferromagnetic formed on it. [0308] Here, the M-H curve of the cascade screen which does not have a substrate film for reference is shown in drawing 80. It turns out that a leakage magnetic field occurs from the vertical component of magnetization of Co, and the soft magnetic characteristics of a NiFe film are degraded. This is considered that a part of NiFe(s) and magnetization of Co are unifying. [0309] (Example 43) As an example 42 shows, since the high coercive force film which formed membranes at the substrate temperature of about 200 degrees C is low resistance by the single crystal's film, it can make an electronic mean free path longer enough than the thickness of a high coercive force film. Therefore, the laminating of the high coercive force film 142 and the ferromagnetic 144 was carried out through the Cu nonmagnetic membrane 143 like drawing 81. The resistance rate of change of this cascade screen showed about 15% and a high value. In addition, in order to produce the cascade screen of such structure, and to control the orientation of the high coercive force film 142 of the 1st layer, it is desirable to prepare a substrate film. Moreover, in this example, the Cr film 141 with a thickness of 20nm was used as a substrate film.

[0310] (Example 44) Next, the case where the high coercive force film for orientation control is used as a bias film in an example 34 is explained.

[0311] In this example, as shown in <u>drawing 82</u>, the magneto-resistive effect element of spin bulb structure was formed through the magnetic insulating layer 146 on the high coercive force film 142 for orientation control. Thus, the high coercive force film 142 and the NiFe film 144 can carry out magnetostatic association, and the magnetic domain wall of the NiFe film edge leading to a Barkhausen noise can be made to fix in a film edge by using the orientation control high coercive force film 142. Furthermore, a good element can be produced, without being able to avoid the leakage magnetic field inside the effect to the NiFe film of a high coercive force film, for example, a film, etc., and degrading the soft magnetic characteristics of a NiFe film, since the orientation control high coercive force film is used. Moreover, an antiferromagnetism film etc. may be used as an exchange bias film of spin bulb structure here.

[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, the magneto-resistive effect element of this invention can demonstrate high resistance rate of change and outstanding soft magnetic characteristics to coincidence, and a so-called size has the industrial value.

[Translation done.]